D
000 452 811
3
UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY

THE LIBRARY
OF
THE UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES

A CENTURY

OF

BIRMINGHAM LIFE.

THE SOUTH WE

BIRMINGHAM (anciently written BIRM
& Ingenuity of its Inhabitants & the Advanta
a Competition with any of the most flourish
Girls, and a Free Grammar School, founded
weekly market on Thursday, with two Inn
House. 6 The Parsonage House. 7. Chartbury
Chappel in Deretend. 17 Collshal 18. Yardely

THE SOUTH WEST PROSPECT OF BIRMINGHAM IN THE COUNTY OF WARWICK.

BIRMINGHAM (anciently written BIRMYNCHAM als BRYMYNCHAM) is neither Borough nor Corporation, but remains, what it was before the Norman Conquest, only a Lordship nevertheless, by the Industry & Ingenuity of its Inhabitants & the Advantage of its being an open free place of Trade, it is become famous for the vast Quantities of Iron & Brass, besides Thread and Leather &c manufactur'd there, and risen to a Competition with any of the most flourishing Towns in England, being adorn'd with several beautiful Structures such as a New Church a Charity School, wherein are maintain'd and taught upwards of 50 Boys & Girls, and a Free Grammar School, founded and endow'd with a large revenue by King Edward the sixth now rebuilt in a stately and commodious form. The Town is govern'd only by two Constables & holds a large weekly market on Thursday, with two Annual Fairs, one on Ascension day, & the other on the feast of S^t Michaels. 1 New Hall 2 S^t Philip's Church 3 The Road to Worcester 4 The Free School 5 The Market House 6 The Parsonage House 7 Chartbury Forrest in Leicestershire 8 S^t Martin's Church 9 Curdworth 10 Whitacre 11 Lady's Well 12 The Manor House 13 Digbeth 14 The Bridge 15 The River Rea 16 S^t John's Chappel in Deritend 17 Collshal 18 Yardeley.

Copied from an old Print published by J & N Buck, 1731.

A CENTURY

OF

BIRMINGHAM LIFE:

OR, A

CHRONICLE OF LOCAL EVENTS,

FROM 1741 TO 1841.

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

JOHN ALFRED LANGFORD, LL.D.

Second Edition.

VOL. 2.

BIRMINGHAM:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY W. G. MOORE & Co., 53, HIGH STREET.

1871.

*DA
690
.B6 L26
1870
v.2

PREFACE.

THE success which has attended the publication of the first volume of this work has far exceeded my most sanguine expectations. The cordial manner in which the press has reviewed the book has greatly cheered and encouraged me in the preparation of the second volume. The life of Birmingham since the year 1840—the time at which these annals close—has been one of great activity and interest; which, at some future time, I hope to narrate. The relation of the modern life of the town would require a mode of treatment different from that which has been found so acceptable in the present work. It would not be necessary, nor desirable, to reproduce the reprints and extracts from the newspapers with the same copiousness; but to give the results in a consecutive and more compressed form. Should I live, it is my intention so to complete the story of Birmingham life.

I have now only to return my hearty thanks to the many friends who have helped and encouraged me in the production of these two volumes; and to the press for the cordial greeting and the generous recognition which my self-imposed labour of love has received.

Birmingham, July, 1871.

72235

CONTENTS OF SECOND VOLUME.

CHAPTER I.—1791-1801.

Effects of the Riots—Ashted—Plan of Birmingham—The Lowcells—Deritend, Digbeth, and Cherry Street—Building—Bordesley Tavern—Spring Gardens—Freehold Estate—Tavern and Tea Garden—Spiceal Street—Birmingham Heath—Women's Market—Population and Houses—Garden—Buckle Manufactory—Buckles at Court—Button Makers—Buckle Trade—Ashted Chapel—Copper—Rev. E. Burn and Dr. Priestley—Hutton's Claims—Fish—Mr. Ashwin—Copper and Brass Trades—Sunday Trading—Shoemakers—The Riots—Barracks—Dr. Maxwell's Daggers—Incendiary Fires—Dr. Withering—St. Martin's Engines—Birmingham and Warwick Canal—Tom Paine—The Rev. J. Proud's Address—Sir R. Lawley—Bankers' Notes—Fast Day—Hemlingford Hundred Bill—Henry Clay and Papier Maché—Royal Birthdays—Penny Post for Birmingham—The Riot Levy—The Little Riot—Lord George Gordon—Warm Clothing for the Army in Flanders—Malicious Report—Relief of the Poor—The Button at Court—Appeal to the Ladies—The King's Birthday—Lord Howe's Victory—Beggars and Ballad Singers—Riot Levy—Medical Pneumatic Institution—Relief Plan—Owen Owen's Decent Burial Society—Benevolent Society—A Little Meeting—Volunteers—Scarcity Riots—Reasons for not Rioting—Distress and Benevolence—Letter from the Duke of Portland—Plan of Relief—Birmingham Workhouse—Attack on the King—Dipt Button Trade—Earthquake— Dipt Buttons again—Employment for Children—Metal Buttons—Deritend Bridge—Ashted Chapel—Sunday Trading—Cheap Cook Shops—Bank Notes—Worcester and Birmingham Canal Tunnel—New Tax upon Newspapers—Deritend Bridge—Tax on Clocks and Watches—Admiral Duncan's Victory—Proposed Tax on Iron—Public Office—Birmingham Asylum—Battle of the Nile—The Sunday Question—Public Houses—New Public Office—Copper Trade—Buttons—Hospital Collection—Household Bread—Soup Shops—Providence Society—Bread Riot—Collection for Soup Shops—The King shot at—The King's Birthday—Forestalling, Engrossing, and Regrating—Bill for the Improvement of the Town—Riots again—Scarcity—Harborne Penny Club—Copper Trade—Botanic Garden—Preliminaries and Peace—Blue Coat School—New Bank—Female School of Industry—Job Nott—Work of Art—John Collard—Bissett's Birmingham—Mr. Eginton—Private Theatre—Mr. Collins—La Guillotine—Burning of the Theatre—The New Theatre—The Woodman—Harlequin Mariner—Miss Wallis—The Manager—Benefit Concert—Kemble—Comte de Worenzoff—"Odd" Entertainment—Bull-baiting—Cock-fighting—Fatal Fight—Spear in a Tooth—A Trance—Pitched Battle—Bull-baiting—Allen's Advertisement—Bill to prevent Bull-baiting—Highway Robbery—Execution at Warwick—Birmingham Dispensary—The World of Soho—The Union Mills—Treason and Sedition—Volunteer Associations—A Cause Célèbre.....1-192

CHAPTER II.—1801 - 1811.

Houses and Gardens—An Elegant Mansion—Heath-mill Stream—St. Martin's Churchyard—Richard Pratchet—Improvements of the Town—Lombard House—"The Egyptian Conduit"—Water Mill—St. Martin's Churchyard—View from High Street—Lord Nelson's Visit—Combination—Christ Church—Copper—Death of Dr. Priestley—Death of Mr. F. Blick—Sawyers—Parish of Birmingham—Another Charity—Fire Insurance—Prince William of Gloucester—George III.—Cost of the Poor—Founding of Christ Church—New Public Office—Battle of Trafalgar—Patriotic Fund—Death of William Pitt—Tax on Iron—Dissenters' Children—Attempt to Murder a Watchman—Execution of Matsell—New Prison—Lord Howick's Catholic Relief Bill—The King's Birthday—New Public Office—Death of Sampson Lloyd—The Combination Laws—Water Works—Corn Market—White Metal Button Trade—Lieutenant Sharpe—The Jews' Synagogue—General Hospital—The King's Ascension Anniversary—New Baptist Chapel—Swedenborgians—Potato Riot—The King's Jubilee—Death of Princess Amelia—Water Works—Dreadful Tempest—Early London Mail—Population in 1801-11—The Fair—Masonic Festival—Birmingham Library—Dr. Birkbeck—Joseph Lancaster—Blake's Illustrations—Methodist Sunday School—News Room—Instruction of Poor Children—Mr. Walker—Dr. Croft—Free School—Private Theatricals—Mrs. Billington—Pandean Concert—Young Roscius—Miss Mudie—The Theatre—The Ampitheatre—Daniel Lambert—Mrs. Siddons—The License Obtained—Mr. W. C. Macready—Execution at Washwood Heath—Edward Allen—Poetic Advertisements—Cock-fighting—Bull-baiting—The Poet Freeth—Morfitt and his Account of Birmingham—To Arms! To Arms, Once More!—Our First Statue.....192-308

CHAPTER III.—1811 - 1821.

Free Birmingham—Camden Hill Villa—The Sand Pits—Coach Accident—The Moat—New Smithfield—Pudding Brook—Birmingham Gardens—Saracen's Head, Snow Hill—Temple Row—The Hospital—Heath Mill Lane—Vaughton's Hole—Tower Street—New Beast Market—Paving—Gardens—East India Company—Order in Council—Mr. Joseph Moore—Riots—Distress—First Royal Mail—Artizan Meeting—Orders in Council—Mr. Brougham—Fire Arms—Wellington's Victories—Consecration of Christ Church—Commercial Society—More Victories—Lying-in-Hospital—Thomas Attwood—The Proof House—Battle of Leipsic—J. Knott—Treaty of Paris—Twyford—Corn Laws—The Post Office—Factory Act—House of Recovery—Savings Bank—Earthquake—Mr. Brougham—Fire Arms Again—Factory Act—Mr. R. Jabet—Gas Light Company—Houses and Rates—Attempt at Compounding—Canal—Distress—The Poor Rate Bill—Orthœpedic Hospital—The Fair—Death of Princess Charlotte—Trade Trouble—Climbing Boys—Factory Act—Domestic Servants—Bank of England Forgeries—Church Extension—Gas—Christ Church—New Meeting House, Carr's Lane—Chamber of Commerce—Death of George III.—St. George's Church—Old Meeting House School—A New Button—Trial of Queen Caroline—Improvement in the Criminal Law—Disinterment of Mr. Baskerville—Rev. Rann Kennedy's Poem on the Coronation of George IV.—Chamber of Commerce—Death of Queen Caroline—Education of Poor Children—Dr. Bell—Lancasterian Free School—Schools of Industry

—New Charity School—Birmingham Academy of Arts—Philosophical Society—Evening School—Mr. Eginton—W. Hutton—James Luckock—R. Jabet—Messrs. E. Everitt and Son—Rev. Rann Kennedy—Mr. Macready—R. W. Elliston—The Theatre—Romeo Coates in Birmingham—Richard Jones—Speaking Pantomime—Miss Macauley—New Melo Drame—Miss O'Neil—Grimaldi—Minor Theatre—Dutch Dwarf—Mr. Elliston's Address—Paul Bedford—The Theatre Burned again—New Theatre—Matrimonial Advertisement—Lamentations of James—Servant Girlism—Combination of Workmen—Cocking—Pedestrianism—The Deaf and Dumb Institution—Society of Arts—Beginning of the Great Political Agitation.....309-437

CHAPTER IV.—1821 - 1831.

Drake's Picture of Birmingham—Deritend Bridge—Markets—Coach Accident—Improvements—Birmingham Houses—Improvements—Duddeston Town—Savings Bank—Birmingham Workhouse—Consecration of St. George's Church—Church and Parish—Distress in Ireland—Abolition of Slavery—Terrible Accident—The Chancellor of the Exchequer—Mr. Sadler—The Eye Hospital—St. David's Society—Curious Trade Customs—Catholic Association—New Railroad Companies—Lench's Trust—Fever Hospital—Poor Aged Women—St. David's Society—Duty on Metals—The Birmingham Journal—Catholic Association—St. Peter's Church—Dispute among the Tailors—Early Closing—Richard Pratchet—Bank Failure—The Corn Laws—Distress Loan—Distressed Printers—Steam Canal Boat—Chamber of Commerce—"Paddy's Watch"—Savings' Bank—St. Peter's Church—Religious Discussion—Provident Society—Friendly Institution—Charles Lloyd—Charities—Reformation Association—Removal of the Deritend Turnpikes—Female Penitentiary—Catholic Emancipation—New Guardian List—Botanical Society—New Road—Birmingham Banking Company—Joseph Sturge and the Musical Festival—St. Thomas's Church—Capital Punishments—The Town Hall—Princess Victoria—The King and Buttons—The Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel—Religious Discussion—Botanical Society—St. Peter's Church Burnt—Church-rates—Population Returns—Death of Dr. de Lys—Temperance Societies—The Cholera—Society of Arts—Illustrations of Warwickshire—News Room—Spectator—A Theatrical War—Peter Hollins—Mechanics' Institution—Infant Schools—Blue Coat School—Society of Arts' First Exhibition—Chantrey—School of Medicine—Spurzheim—Map of Birmingham—Society of Arts' New Building—Mechanics' Institution—Conversazione—Free Grammar School—Law Library—Fine Arts—School of Medicine—Sunday School Jubilee—Madame Catalani—Theatrical Looker-on—Wax Works—French Giant—The Cheltenham Amateurs—Infant Roscius—Address—Master Burke—Macready's Farewell—African Roscius—"I can't find Brummagem"—J. Dobbs—Cocking—Matrimony—Bull-baiting—"For Better or for Worse"—The Resurrectionists—House-keeper Wanted—The Reform Agitation and the Political Union.....437-549

CHAPTER V.—1831 - 1841.

The Town Hall—Free Grammar School—Roman Catholic Cathedral—Market Hall—Value of Property—Fish Market—Parish Meeting—Temperance Society—Cholera—Steam Carriage—A New Trade—Dr. Priestley Centenary—Patent Laws—Anti-Slavery

Meeting—Factory Acts—Death of James Armitage—Botanical Gardens—Temperance Society—Intimidation—Death of Rev. J. Cooke—Timothy Smith—A Strike—Dr. Church's Steam Carriage—Church Rates—Zoological Gardens—Tercentenary of the Reformation—Bishop Ryder—Dr. Birt Davies—Joseph Sturge—Death of Dr. John Johnstone—Birmingham Journal—Freehold Building Society—Church Rates—Princess Victoria's Birthday—The Artisans and the Distress—Beneficence—Joseph Corbett—The Queen's Accession—Opening of the Birmingham and Manchester Railway—Bishop Ryder's Church—Cause of the Distress—British Association—Death of James Dobbs—Relief of Distress—Coronation of Queen Victoria—Temperance Conference—Marshal Soult's Visit—Consecrations—Anti-Corn-Law Meeting—Shakspere Club—Town Mission—Death of Thomas Knott—Floods—Church Extension—Marriage of the Queen—Bank Failure—Trade Deputations—The Queen fired at—The Queen's Hospital—Lodge's Portraits—School of Medicine—Weaver's Museum—Birmingham Herald—Free Grammar School—History of Aris's Birmingham Gazette—Free Grammar School—Dr. Warneford—Mechanics' Institute—Educational Statistic Society—Free Grammar School—James Montgomery—British Association—The Exhibition—Mr. Daniel Wright—In Memoriam—Amusements—Riot at the Theatre—Cricket—Bull-baiting—Passing of the Reform Bill and Politics After—The Charter of Incorporation—Charles Reece Pemberton.....549-664

APPENDIX 665

A CENTURY

OF

BIRMINGHAM LIFE.

CHAPTER I.—1791-1801.

§ 1. APPEARANCE OF THE TOWN.

The consequences of the riots were most disastrous to the town, and, for a time, nearly destroyed the public spirit which, during the previous decade, had produced such great results. The pecuniary loss was the least of the evils which they entailed. The bigotry and tyranny of the majority overawed the minority, and utterly crushed that opposition without which no healthy public life is possible. In a country like England the absolute predominance of any sect in religion, or of any party in politics, is destructive of the best interests of the nation, and fatally injurious to the progress and well-being of the people. This is especially true of the life of towns. Whenever one party is overwhelmingly numerous and strong, true liberty is impossible. Wholesome competition for public honours is one of the best signs of health in a people, and is as necessary for the development of the higher life of a nation, as is competition in trade for the production of the best manufactures, the development of mechanical skill, and the attainment of commercial success. This lesson was taught by the bitter experience of 1791. The Church-and-King party were so powerful, and had used their power so unscrupulously, that, for years and years afterwards, the town did not recover from the injury inflicted. The large-minded leaders of the liberal party retired from public life, and left an arena in which defeat, insult, and ruin were their certain reward. Unfortunately, the possession of unlimited power is almost always accompanied by

intolerance and bigotry. The triumph of party becomes of greater importance than the good of the nation. In its earliest stages of development, party is made to appear identical with the well-being of the people; but, as it gains in strength and influence, party success is the primary, and the greatness of the state the secondary, consideration. The history of the world shows how, in religion, Roman Catholic, Churchmen, and Dissenters have in turns become intolerant and persecuting; and Tory, Whig, and Liberal have each violated the first principles of Liberty. No true friend of his country will ever desire to see England in the undisputed possession of any sect in religion, or of any party in politics. A strong opposition is necessary for the good government, the welfare, and the liberty of the kingdom.

The doings of 1791 were for a time fatal to the public life of Birmingham. Almost all the great undertakings which distinguished the last ten years languished for want of support. The French war had destroyed commerce, and the terrible taxation caused by that war had produced such a depression in trade that bankruptcy and ruin stared thousands of honest and industrious citizens in the face. Birmingham did not suffer so severely as other towns. Then, as now, the infinite number of her industries saved her somewhat from the general depression with which the country was afflicted. But even here the sufferings were very great. Public building was stopped; the famous Crescent could not get completed. There was neither time nor inclination to attend to education or literature. Scarcely any books were produced here during the next ten years; and comparatively few changes were made in the appearance of the town. The only things which flourished with undiminished fervour, during this decade, were the spirit of war, and the spirit of charity; the latter, we rejoice to say, having never failed in the history of Birmingham. Thus there is little for us to record in the first section of the present chapter.

The first advertisement of the decade refers to a house and garden "near the High-street:"—

January 23, 1792.—To be Let and entered upon immediately, a large handsome Messuage, with convenient Out-buildings and Garden, pleasantly situated, near the High-street, in Birmingham, and late in the occupation of Mr. Benjamin Mansell. For further particulars apply to Mr. Barker, in the Square, Birmingham.

Ashted was now being rapidly built upon. In the following announcement we have an excellent specimen of a land agent's ability in setting forth the value of his estate. Every point of 'vantage is made the most of, and the crowning inducement, that the establishment of a market is in agitation, carefully reserved for the close. The market, however, was not built until our own time, which has seen at once its erection and failure.

ASHTED.

August 6, 1792.—The numerous applications to Rent Houses built upon this Estate, not only prove the Pleasantness of its Situation, but the Advantage of building upon a Spot, where, by Experience, the Takers of Land are sure to be recompensed either from a Certainty of Tenants, in case they are inclined to employ their Money in Building, or from the annual Increase in the Value of the Land, if taken upon Speculation, as is proved by those who have taken Lots more than sufficient for their own Purpose, having, in the short Space of Three Years, gained, by Letting to Under Tenants, at the Rate of from Ten to Twenty Pounds an acre per annum, over and above the Rent they pay.

The Healthfulness of the Spot, the Advantage of the Chapel, the Goodness and Regulations that are made in the Streets, contribute greatly to the Benefit of the Ground Tenants, as well as the Occupiers of the Houses, to which the Consideration of plentiful Springs of fine soft Water, the moderate Rate Bricks are purchased at upon the Spot, with the Benefit of Land (only for the Expence of getting) may be named as very material Savings in the Expence of Building,—to which, in point of essential advantage, may be added, the convenience of the Canal passing through the Estate, and the great Difference in the Parish Rates between Aston and Birmingham, being at least Two-thirds less in the Parish of Aston.

Manufacturers in particular, and the Inhabitants of Ashted in general, by a late Regulation are essentially accommodated.—All letters coming by the mail, and all Letters or Orders from any Part of the Town of Birmingham, wished to be conveyed speedily, and without trouble, will, by being put into the Post-office by Twelve o'Clock on each Day, be punctually delivered at Ashted within Ten Minutes after the Office is open for Delivery of Letters from London, and a Receiving Box is established at Mr. Spreadborough's, at Ashted Tavern, where Letters or Orders put in before Half-past Eleven o'Clock, will be regularly delivered to any Part of the Town, as early as the Letters from London are delivered.—Some Lots of Land, which have the Advantage of a Country Situation, at a greater Distance from the Town, very inviting to Gentlemen or Ladies who wish a pleasing Retirement, and many advantageous Situations for Manufactories or other Business, to be LET; as also some Sittings in the Chapel.—For further particulars enquire at Mr. Brooke's Office, in Temple Row, Birmingham, or of Mr. Kempson, Surveyor.

N.B. The establishing a Market at Ashted is in Agitation.

In this year a new plan of the town was published, known to collectors as the plan of 1792. It is thus announced in the *Gazette*:—

PLAN OF BIRMINGHAM.*

September 24, 1792.—This Day is published, Price 1s., a New Plan of the Town; wherein is described all the new Streets, the Course of the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal, the Termination of the Worcester Canal, the Situation of the Barracks now building, with every necessary Information to direct Strangers to any Part of the Town, the public Buildings being described in their proper situations, without any References; and for the Convenience of Proprietors of Buildings the Streets are described without Shading, in such a Manner that any Person may have their Buildings exhibited on the Plan in their exact situations.

The next advertisement takes us again to

ASHTED.

December 16, 1793.—Doubts having been entertained whether the Assignees of Mr. Brooke's Estate were empowered to grant Building Leases, which has prevented many persons, who wanted to take Land in this desirable and much improved Hamlet, being accommodated, notice is hereby given, that a Plan is now settled by counsel, whereby Leases may be securely granted to any person desirous of taking any Lots of the said Land for Building—and that the same will be immediately Let for that Purpose. For further particulars apply to the Assignees, every Thursday, at Mr. Suthall's, at the Swan, in Bull Street. Mr. Bryan, at the Sign of the Duke of York, in Brooke Street, Ashted, will show the Land.

The next advertisement is quoted for the sake of the name of the farm which it announces as to be sold. It will be seen that it is called the "Lowcells," and hence is derived the name of that pleasant part of Aston now called the Lozells.

June 24, 1793.—A desirable Farm near Birmingham. To be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, by Thomas Warren, this Day, the 24th of June inst., precisely at ten o'clock, a Lease of all that valuable and improved Farm, known by the name of the Lowcells, in the Parish of Aston, within one mile and a half of the Town of Birmingham, late in the Tenure or Occupation of Mr. Joseph Cooper, deceased, consisting of a commodious Farm House, with a large Barn, Stables, Cow-houses, Stalls for feeding Cattle, Graineries, Blacksmith's Shop, and other out-buildings, all in complete Repair; also two large well-planted Gardens, and fourteen Closes or Pieces, containing 138 acres, or thereabouts, of rich Arable, Meadow, or Pasture Land.

The following record of a fatal accident calls us back to a time when open wells gave an additional country aspect to the town. In short, up to a comparatively recent period, all the characteristics of Birmingham, except the extreme activity of the people, were those of a rural district. Thus we read on July 23, 1792, that "on Friday evening, as Mary Duck, a child, was playing round a well, (very carelessly left uncovered) in Summer Lane, she unfortunately fell into it, and was drowned."

* This plan was by J. Hanson, and is used as a Frontispiece to the Third Edition of Hutton's Birmingham.

THE GOLDEN LION, DERITEND.

In this year, such a house as that described in the next advertisement was to be let in Colmore Row :—

July 23, 1792.—To be Let, and may be entered on immediately, a good convenient double House, and new-erected Warehouse, both in complete repair, situate in Colemore Row; the House consists of two good Parlours, two Kitchens, with a Pantry, Brewhouse, entire walled Yard, and Garden behind the same; the upper Stories contain four good Chambers, and two Attics, with convenient Closets.—For Particulars and to view the Premises, enquire at No. 24 Colemore Row.

This however is far surpassed in attractions by the following, in our "prety street" of Deritend :—

February 3, 1794.—To be Let, a handsome, substantial and convenient House, situate near Deritend Bridge, and consisting of the following Particulars, viz., on the Ground Floor three good Parlours, Hall, large Kitchen, with Pantry adjoining; on the Second Floor four large commodious Lodging Rooms, with Dressing Room; and in the Attic Story four Lodging Rooms, of the same size as those on the second Floor. Three dry and useful Cellars, a Brewhouse, and Servant's Room, with three Chambers over the same, Stable, Hog Stye, and every other convenience, with a Yard paved, walled round, and entire. Two spacious Gardens, walled round, and planted with the choicest Wall Fruit, Standard, and Espalier Trees, and with the most useful Vegetables. The House, Offices, and Premises, stand detached from every other Building, are in compleat Repair, fitted up in a genteel and comfortable Style, and may form an agreeable Residence for a private Family, or a most profitable one for an extensive Manufactory.

For further Particulars enquire of Mr. H. Geast, on the Premises; or of Mr. Geast, Attorney, Birmingham.

In Deritend, in Digbeth, in Cherry Street, and, in fact, in almost all parts of the town, a garden was still to be found attached to nearly every house. The two following advertisements are further examples of this pleasant state of things :—

February 17, 1794.—To be Let, or the Lease to be Sold, and may be entered on immediately, an exceeding good Front double House, situate in Digbeth, Birmingham, at a very easy Rent, containing four Rooms on the Attic Story, ceiled, three very good Chambers, with Closets, &c., front and back Parlour, Hall, and Kitchen, with good Closets and Pantry, two Cellars, two Warehouses, a two-stalled Stable, Brewhouse, Necessary, and entire Yard, a Pump with good soft Water, and walled Garden; may be accommodated with a good Kitchen Garden, well stocked.—The House has been recently papered, and fitted up with Bath Stove Grates, Kitchen Grates, and other Fixtures, which may be taken to at a fair Valuation.

For further Particulars enquire of T. Lucas,* Auctioneer, No. 10, High Street, Birmingham.

* Mr. Lucas was for many years a famous facetious Auctioneer. His manner used to attract large crowds to his rooms, which were in High Street, nearly opposite the present *Gazette* Office.

April 14, 1794.—To be Sold or Let, all that large and commodious Dwelling House, containing six Rooms on a Floor, with a Garden behind the same, all entire, situate in Cherry Street, in Birmingham, late the Residence of James Moore, Esq., deceased, but since fitted up and used as a Bank.* For further Particulars enquire of the Printer.

The following account of a fatal accident, shows the condition of an old friend of ours :—

June 9, 1794.—On Monday the wife of James Davenport, pocket-book maker, unfortunately falling into the place called "Pudding Brook," near this Town, *was suffocated by the mud.*

The active speculation in building which was now going on raised the fears of the timid, and we did not fail in our predictors of evil therefrom. On January 26, 1795, the editor thus expressed the feeling of one of these anxious souls. The passage is valuable to us as affording some further reliable evidence of the great changes which were then being made in the appearance of the town and its more immediate neighbourhood.

"We are desired," says the editor, "by a Correspondent to remark that, although there is now supposed to be a thousand houses untenanted in the parish of Birmingham, yet such is the passion for speculations in building, that, (according to his information) upwards of sixty acres of the common land, lately enclosed in the parish of Handsworth, under an act of parliament, is already taken or purchased, and intended to be built upon, and that some of the building clubs† have made a beginning upon a scale of twenty houses and gardens to an acre of land.

"How so great an additional population as may result therefrom is to be supported, doth not to our correspondent appear, as many of the native inhabitants of the parish are out of employment, and whose situation at this inclement season would be truly miserable, had it not been mitigated by their benevolent neighbours."

Such Jeremiads never did, and never will, stop the evil complained of. The restless activity of men resolved to "get on," is not to be calmed down by the terrors of anticipated and prospective evils. Thus, in spite of the "correspondent's" fearful picture of a "thousand houses untenanted," we have such advertisements as the following, still offering for use :—

BUILDING LAND.

September 28, 1795.—To be Let, on Building Leases, some valuable Lots of Land in the New Part of Cherry Street. This Situation is in the Centre of the Town, and rendered, by its communication with the principal Streets, particularly advantageous for genteel Retail Trades. The Depth of Land is equal to the opposite Side, on which an

* Originally Messrs. J. L. Mollieit and Sons ; and now a Branch of Messrs. Lloyds' Banking Company, Limited.

† Building Clubs were always popular in Birmingham. A detailed account of an early one is given in vol. i, p. 201 of this Work.

elegant range of Houses is erected. Also other Land belonging to the Governors of the Free School, in a Variety of desirable Situations in and near the Town, to be Let for Building.

For Particulars apply to Mr. Brooke, Attorney at Law, Temple Row, Birmingham.

The next advertisement describes a once famous house of resort. Its well known "small neat flower garden, and pleasure-house therein," have been absorbed, like so many more of its kind, within the memory of persons still young.

BORDESLEY TAVERN.

October 19th, 1795.—To be Let, and entered upon immediately, situate near the Heath Mill, Deritend, and within a few yards of the Warwick and Birmingham Canal, containing a Kitchen, two Parlours, a Bar, and other proper Offices on the Ground Floor, good dry Cellaring underneath, and a Suit of very convenient Lodging Rooms over the whole; together with a Brewhouse, Stable, Cowhouse, an upper and lower Shop, and other Out-Offices, a small neat Flower Garden, with a Pleasure House therein, and a large Kitchen Garden, well planted with Household Vegetables. The whole of these Premises are in good Repair, and comprise near an Acre of Land, and a good Tenant will, if he requires it, be accommodated with more Land.

For Particulars apply to Messrs. Farror and Goode, Auctioneers, Birmingham Mr William Jabet, Land Surveyor, Bordesley; or Mr. John Lowe, of the Ravenhurst, in Bordesley.

Our next extract takes us to another public garden, which was once a most pleasant place. In that now unsavoury street, called Floodgate Street, there was a public house called "Spring Gardens;" so named from the very beautiful gardens which extended from the back of the house down to the banks of the clear and rippling river Rea. The house is still there, but its name is all that remains to it of its former glory. The river is thick, black and turgid. There are no trees, nor flowers, nor shady walks, nor summer houses on its banks. Yet the present writer remembers when the Spring Gardens were eminently pretty, and well worth a visit. How vividly the whole scene is brought before us by the following brief account of a sad and almost fatal accident:—

October 26th, 1793.—Late on Thursday night last the family at Spring Gardens, in this town, was alarmed by some mournful, but indistinct, cries, which evidently proceeded from persons in great distress. Mr. Fallows very humanely got up, and taking a servant and lights with him, he found a man and a woman nearly exhausted, and clinging to the floodgates, and thus keeping their heads above water. In a very few minutes more, but for the benevolent exertions of Mr. Fallows, they must have been drowned, for they were become so exceedingly weak, that they could scarcely keep their hold until he and the servants could reach them; and it was then with great difficulty they were taken out. These unfortunate people, it seems, were two of a large party, who had been spending the

evening at the gardens, where they were kept by the rain until it was late. When they went out, not being well acquainted with the road, owing to the darkness of the night, and still more so to the shameful negligence of somebody, in not putting up a rail or any kind of fence, they walked into the deepest part of the river, some little way above the flood-gates, down to which they were floated; and they must, by Mr. Fallows' account, have been in their uncomfortably perilous situation full an hour.

In the following advertisements we have still further proof of the great changes which were now being made; and of the spirit of speculation of which the "correspondent" quoted above complained :—

April 11th, 1796.—To be Let, on a re-building Lease, and entered upon immediately, all those three Dwelling-houses, situate on the Northern side of, and fronting to, High-street, in Birmingham, and adjoining to the Dwelling-houses of Charles Taylor, Esq., and now in the several Tenures of Messrs. Plimley, Nichols, and Alsop, *with a great depth of Land behind* the said Houses, sufficient for the purpose of erecting convenient Ware-houses, and other Buildings.

N.B. The above situation is a very centrical one, it being in one of the most principal streets in Birmingham, either for a Wholesale or Retail Business, and well worth the Notice of any Person wishing to enter into either of them. Also to be Let for Building, the Land whereon the Black Boy Inn and Buildings now stand, situate in Edgbaston Street, Birmingham.

N.B. That as the House adjoining the said Inn will be taken down, and a good opening made out of Edgbaston Street, to communicate with the Warwick and Alcester Roads, for Carriages this year, the above Spot of Land will be a very desirable one, either to erect an Inn, or other Buildings upon.

VALUABLE FREEHOLD ESTATES.

April 24th, 1797.—To be peremptorily Sold by Auction by T. Warren (by Direction of Messrs. Princep and the Trustees of the late Joseph Carles, Esq., who have mutually entered into an agreement for that purpose,) at the house of Mrs. Mary Lloyd, all that spacious and convenient Dwelling House, four stories high, containing four Rooms on each Floor, with Brewhouse, Laundry over it, and other Accommodations, situate in Park Street, opposite Shut Lane End, together with a very large Space of Vacant Land or Garden Ground behind the same, all entire, walled round, and very suitable for the erection of other Buildings, Warehouses, or Shops; all which said Premises were late in the Holding of Mr. John Colmore, at the yearly Rent of £25, but are now untenanted. Also two other Dwelling Houses adjoining to the above, and fronting to Park Street aforesaid, with Gardens and other Appurtenances thereto, now or late in the several Tenures of Mrs. Richards and William Tay, at the yearly rent of £16.

Our next advertisement is full of pleasant reminiscences to all Birmingham people who are near or beyond middle life. The "road leading from the Crescent Bridge to the Cottage of Content," was composed entirely of gardens. The Cottage of Content still remains to remind us of a state of things which no longer exist. The gardens have all disappeared.

June 12, 1797.—A Garden to be Sold by Auction, on the Spot, by Thomas Warren, To-morrow Evening, precisely at Seven o'clock; a very capital Garden, belonging to the Estate of Messrs. Hawkins, situate in the Road *leading from the Crescent Bridge to the Cottage of Content, in the second Walk on the left hand from the Pit of Water, and the fifth Garden on the Right in that Walk.* This Garden is in the highest state of Improvement; the soil remarkably rich and full of manure; the Vegetables and Hot-bed Plants in very great forwardness; the Fruits (of which there is great Plenty) are all of the best and in their Prime. There is also a Collection of choice Flower Roots, variously dispersed, and a number of Auricula Plants in Pots; likewise a handsome Brick Summer House, and other Conveniences, and several painted Garden Screens, Tools, &c.

In the next advertisement we are reminded of another tavern and tea-garden, which once offered a pleasant place for the harmless recreations of our artizans and their families :—

TAVERN AND TEA GARDEN.

February 26, 1798.—To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that pleasantly situated and well accustomed Tavern and Tea Garden, known by the Name of the Anchor, on Camp Hill, within ten Minutes' Walk of the Center of Birmingham. The House contains several good Rooms, with Cellars, &c. The Garden is accommodated with Arbours, Seats, &c., and well stocked with excellent Fruit Trees, Shrubs, Flowers, and Vegetables of every Description, and is now in a high state of Cultivation; the Rent is very low, and, being in Aston Parish, the Levies are very moderate. The Occupier will be expected to take to the Brewing Vessels, Fixtures, &c., at a fair Valuation, and may be accommodated with what Part of the Furniture he pleases; he also may be furnished with a Lease of the Premises, sixteen Years of which are unexpired at Lady-day next.

For further Particulars and a view of the House, &c., apply to the Present Tenant, Mr. D. Hunt, who is declining the Public Business.

In the next advertisement we are taken to a street which we have not been called upon to visit more than once before. Yet here, also, we meet with the constant garden; in this case a large one, and "well planted with fruit trees:"—

April 16th, 1798.—To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, a neat, commodious Dwelling-House, with convenient Out-buildings, Soft Water Pump, and large Garden, well planted with choice Fruit Trees, &c., pleasantly situated in Caroline Street, near St. Paul's, Birmingham.

Enquire of Martha Grove, on the Premises.

Caroline Street was a likely place in which to find such a house; but, looking at the present aspect of Spiceal Street, would any one anticipate that, only seventy years ago, such premises as these were advertised to be let in that street?

September 24th, 1798.—To be Let, either separately or together, Two commodious Dwelling Houses, situate at the upper End of Hale's Court, in Spiceal-street, Birmingham, at a small Distance below the Dog Inn, with a separate Court in Front, a considerable

Range of Shops, *a large Garden*, *Stable*, and other Out-offices and Conveniences to the same. The centrical Site of these Premises in the Town, may render them eligible to a Merchant, Factor, or Manufacturer, or to a Broker, Pawnbroker, &c., as the Outbuildings are easily convertible into many useful Purposes for Trade or Business, or private Family Use. For further Particulars apply at No. 54, the Upper Bow Sash, in St. Bartholomew's Row, or to Mr. James Leag, Builder, the Corner of St. James's-street, St. Paul's Square, Birmingham.

We now reach the commencement of a very important, but, to our mind, not a very acceptable work—the Inclosure of Birmingham Heath. Bit by bit, Birmingham, is taking in the surrounding country, and preparing for the rapid growth of the last twenty-five years. This is the first announcement of the new encroachment:—

BIRMINGHAM HEATH INCLOSURE.

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners appointed in and by Act of Parliament, passed in the 38th year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Third, entitled "An Act for dividing, allotting, and inclosing the several Commons and Waste Lands lying within the Manor and Parish of Birmingham, in the County of Warwick," do intend to hold their first Meeting under the said Act of Parliament on Wednesday, the Fifth Day of December next, at the House of Mr. Crocket, known by the Name of the New Inn, situate at Handsworth, in the County of Stafford, and that the said Commissioners will begin to ride or perambulate the Boundaries of the Commons and Waste Lands intended to be inclosed under the Powers of the Act, on the same Day, at nine o'Clock in the Forenoon, on the said Heath called Birmingham Heath, near to a Place called the Lodge, within the Manor and Parish aforesaid, from whence the Commissioners will proceed along the Boundaries adjoining the several parishes of Harborne, Handsworth, Edgbaston, and Aston, in the Counties of Warwick and Stafford, of which all persons interested are to take notice.

THOMAS HUNT,
WILLIAM SMITH,
AMBROSE MAINWARING, } Solicitors.

November 19, 1798.

The Commissioners soon set to work in preparing their plans, and in carrying out the provisions of the Act. In a year after this first announcement they published the following detailed account of their intentions. If the reader will look at a modern map while he is perusing the statement, he will at once see what great changes were made by the Commissioners for enclosing Birmingham Heath.

BIRMINGHAM HEATH INCLOSURE.

December 23, 1799.—We, the Commissioners, named and appointed in and by an Act of Parliament, passed in the 38th year of the Reign of his present Majesty, for dividing and enclosing the several Commons and Waste Lands lying within the Manor and Parish of Birmingham, in the County of Warwick, do hereby give Notice, that we have set out

the following Roads, in and over the said Commons and Waste Lands. From the Wolverhampton Turnpike Road, near the Pinfold, over the Little Hockley Pool Lane, and on the East Side of the Warren House, and Mr. Tuge's Estate, and into the ancient Lane leading to Winson Green.

Another Road from the West End of the said Lane, over the South Side of Winson Green, and to the Navigation Bridge, called Winson Green Bridge, and from thence, over the said Heath, to the Turnpike Road leading from Birmingham to Dudley, and nearly opposite to the Southern Gate of the Land belonging to Mrs. Scott, in the occupation of Mr. John Iddins.

Another public Carriage Road, being Part of the ancient Icknield Street Road, from the South East Corner of the Garden in the Tenure of Mr. Thomas Conway, and near his Summer House, over an Incroachment in the Tenure of Samuel Smith, to the first described Road, and from thence, nearly continuing in a Western Direction, over the Northern side of Kaye Hill into the ancient Lane called Warstone Lane.

Another public Carriage Road, branching out of the last described Road, at the North East Corner of Little Hockley Pool, and extending over the said Common, through Nineveh, and into the Road leading from Winson Green aforesaid, to Handsworth.

Another public Carriage Road, branching out of the said last mentioned Road, at Nineveh, and extending itself over the said Common to the South East End of a certain ancient Lane leading to Winson Green aforesaid.

Another public Carriage Road, leading from the Soho, across the Road before described to lead from Little Hockley Pool to Nineveh, and from thence, over Gibb Heath, into the last described Road.

Another public Carriage Road, leading over the upper End of Winson Green, to the Pig Mill Lane End.

Another public Carriage Road, leading from the Wolverhampton Turnpike Road, near Hockley Brook, across the said Brook into the ancient Road leading through Handsworth to Walsall, and also from the Wolverhampton Road to a House belonging to Charles Colmore, Esq., in the Possession of Mr. Bonas, called the Angel.

All which said Roads we have caused to be set out to the Breadth of forty Feet—and we have appointed Mr. Thomas Conway, of Hockley, to shew the said Roads.

And all Persons who have any Objections to make to the aforesaid Roads, or any or either of them, are desired to attend and make such other Objections, in Writing, at our next Meeting, to be held at the House of Thomas Crocket, known by the name of the New Inn, situate at Handsworth, on Tuesday the 7th Day of January next, at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon.

THOMAS GREEN.
SAMUEL WYATT.
JOHN WALL.

The next advertisement is quoted for the curious mention of the "women's market," which it contains. It is, I think, the only example of the kind. The women's market was, of course, for the sale of butter, eggs, and poultry, and was at this time held in High Street.

HOUSES IN HIGH STREET.

July 8, 1799.—To be Let, and entered upon immediately, a Messuage or Tenement in High Street, Birmingham, fronting the Women's Market, late in the Holding of Abraham Bullock, Basket-maker, and also five back Houses, let to under tenants, who pay their rents weekly.

The Surveyor published this useful and interesting bit of information :—

November 3, 1800.—The public are most assuredly informed that from the Middle of the High-street, facing the Swan Inn, Birmingham, down Digbeth, and up Deritend to the Middle of the Road facing the Bottom of Ravenhurst Hill, leading to Bradford-street, Bordesley, is 1672 Yards; and over Ravenhurst Hill, down Bradford-street, over the Mill Meadow, by the Moat, and up Spiceal-street, to the Middle of the Street facing the Swan Inn aforesaid, is 1684 Yards; consequently Digbeth Road is nearer by twelve Yards and upwards, and lies more on a Level, as appears by actual Mensuration, taken this 24th Day of October, 1800, by me,

W. TAYLOR, Land Surveyor.

On April 27, 1801, a return of the population and houses of the town was published, of which the following is a copy :—

The Parish of Birmingham only.

Inhabited houses	12,044
Void ditto	1,662
Families	12,683
Males	28,568
Females	32,254
Total number of inhabitants	60,822

The other parts of the township—Bordesley and Deritend.

Houses inhabited	1,017
Ditto void	90
Males	2,392
Females	2,629

Ashted, Duddeston, &c.

Inhabited houses	739
Ditto void	98
Males	1,706
Females	1,835
Total of Hamlets	8,562
Total of the inhabitants of the connected streets and houses	69,384

The next two advertisements recall a state of the town "for ever and for ever gone."

A Capital Garden.

July 13, 1801.—To be Sold, a well-planted Garden, in the highest state of Cultivation, with two good Asparagus, Raspberry, and Strawberry Beds, a Brick Summer House, and other Conveniences, situate in a Walk opposite the Timber Company's Wharf.—Enquire at the Rose and Crown, Paradise-street, Birmingham.

To Gardeners and Others.

July 13, 1801.—To be Sold, a Crop of Potatoes and Beans, now growing upon a Piece of Land, containing about two acres, situate at the upper End of Bradford Street, in Bordesley, and within three quarters of a mile of the Centre of the Town of Birmingham. Those Persons who are disposed to become Purchasers, are requested to send their Proposals in Writing, stating the Price they respectively are willing to give, the Time of Payment, and of clearing the Crops from off the Ground, &c., to Mr. Lowe, of the Ravenhurst, in Bordesley, on or before the 18th instant.

To view the Crop, apply to Mr. Lowe.

§ 2. PUBLIC LIFE AND EVENTS.

The record of public events for the present ten years will afford a painful contrast to that of the last decade. There is enough activity, enough energy, a plentiful display of public spirit; but the energy of the inhabitants is almost entirely absorbed either in trade or in arming and drilling themselves in readiness for the expected invasion of Napoleon Buonaparte. The loyalty of the town was of the most oppressive character. To hint at the want of moderation and wisdom in any of the doings of the "heaven-born minister," Pitt—to suggest the slightest shortcoming on the part of the "Father of his people," George III., was treason of the worst kind, and the rash Reformer was sent to Coventry, and in danger of being sent to a worse place by the respectable of his fellow townsmen. Clergy and laity alike participated in the fever of Church-and-Kingism, and no toleration was allowed to dissentients. The general opinion was virulently loyal, and woe to the poor wretch who was bold enough to utter a doubt, or to whisper a suspicion that there was anything rotten in the state of England. The politics of the clergy were not a whit more fanatical than those of most of the laymen: and Dr. Croft, Dr. Madan, and the Rev. E. Burn, found, in gentlemen like Mr. Morfitt, Mr. Weston, and the once important Job Nott, men whose hatred of Dr. Priestley exceeded their own, and whose vehement vituperation and vehement declamation exceeded even that of the pulpit. For some years Birmingham

suffered from the "reign of terror," and it required many years' experience of the tender mercies of an anti-reform Government to bring back her old and healthy liberalism. In spite, however, of this somewhat retrogressive tendency of the people on the subject of freedom, the history of the town from 1791 to 1801 is full of an interest of its own, and is rich in lessons of public importance, even for our own time.

Our first extract brings us back to the irrepressible buckle :—

BUCKLE MANUFACTORY.

January 2, 1792.—We had the satisfaction, in our last, to announce to the public the circumstance of some Gentlemen of the Committee of the principal manufacturers of Buckles in this Town, Walsall, and Wolverhampton, waiting upon his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; and we are now enabled to present to our Readers the words of their petition.—Mr. Sheridan, who had the honour of introducing the deputation to the Prince, passed the highest compliments on the Abilities of the Gentlemen who drew it up; and remarked that he had hardly ever met with sentences so happily expressed, and which contained so much matter in so few words, as those which we have distinguished by an italic letter.

To His Royal Highness the PRINCE OF WALES. The humble Petition of the Buckle Manufacturers, &c.

Sheweth,

That, with minds strongly agitated by the alarming decline of our Trade, we approach your ROYAL HIGHNESS, not without hope, being abundantly convinced that you will rejoice in an opportunity of displaying, at the same time, your goodness, public spirit, and humanity.

It will stand, instead of a thousand arguments, simply to state to your ROYAL HIGHNESS, that the Buckle Trade gives employment to more than Twenty Thousand Persons, numbers of whom, in consequence of the prevalency of Shoe-strings and Slippers, are at present without employ, almost destitute of bread, and exposed to the horrors of want, at this inclement season of the year; That should the same stagnation of trade continue, the miseries, emigrations and other horrid consequences that will inevitably ensue, may be better conceived than expressed.

It is in a great measure owing to the two valuable Manufactures of Buckles and Buttons, that Birmingham has attained her present importance in the map of Great Britain; the latter, when in an infirm state, was cherished by Parliamentary assistance; but averse to prohibitory penalties, we have the fullest reliance upon the gracious nterference of your ROYAL HIGHNESS.

We beg leave to observe, that when Fashion, instead of foreign or unprofitable ornaments, wears and consumes the Manufactures of this Country, she puts on a more engaging form and becomes Patriotism. When Taste, at the same time and by the same means that she decorates the Persons of the Rich, cloaths and feeds the naked and hungry Poor, she deserves a worthier appellation, and may be styled Humanity. We make no doubt but your ROYAL HIGHNESS *will prefer the blessings of the Starving Manufacturer to the encomiums of the Drawing Room.*

We know it is to no purpose to address Fashion herself; she is void of feeling and deaf to argument; but fortunately she is subject to your control: She has been accustomed to listen to your voice and obey your commands.

We, therefore, most earnestly implore your ROYAL HIGHNESS, as our present Hope and future Sovereign, attentively to consider the deplorable situation of our trade, which is in danger of being ruined by this mutability of Fashion; and to give that direction to the public taste, which will ensure our most lively and lasting gratitude, and confirm the general opinion of the exalted virtues of your heart.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

December 17, 1791.—The very gracious reply of the Prince we have already noticed: and on Saturday se'nnight, his Royal Highness having ordered the principal persons of every department of his household into his presence, informed them that they must from that instant discontinue the use of shoe-strings; he desired them to go to his own buckle-maker for what buckles they might want, and he expressed a hope that they would never offend him by the disuse of so important an article of British Manufacture.—His Royal Highness the Duke of York (upon whom the Committee also waited, attended by Major-General Grenville) on the same day personally delivered similar orders to the gentlemen and servants of his household; and the Members of the City of London have assured the Manufacturers that they will use their endeavours, both in their public and private capacities, to extend, as far as possible, the influence of the Prince of Wales's example, of whose beneficent intentions in this, as well as in every other instance, we cannot, indeed, speak too highly. The elegant and frank manner in which his Royal Highness all along expressed himself, and the humanity with which he entered into the petition, has left such an impression upon the minds of the Gentlemen of the Committee, as cannot fail of conveying the most just representation of so amiable a Prince, to the valuable body of men by whom they were deputed.

The deputation (which consisted of Messrs. Cheston, Bellamy, S. Hands, and Bingley, of this Town, and Mr. T. Hipkins, of Walsall) likewise feel themselves under the greatest obligations to Mr. Sheridan and Major General Grenville, through whose polite kindness they were introduced to the Princes; and they were honoured by the company of several of the first Gentlemen of the Prince of Wales's household to a splendid dinner, prepared at the New London Tavern, after which the evening was spent with the utmost conviviality.

It is thought necessary to observe, thet two ridiculous paragraphs, which have appeared in a London paper upon the above subject, were totally unauthorised by the Committee or Deputation, whose names were improperly used in them.

Success attended the efforts of the manufacturers. Royalty smiled upon the buckle, and wore it, but not even the favour of the "first gentleman in Europe" could compel its use. A more potent influence had declared against it, and fashion, in spite of King, Queen, Prince Regent, and the whole Court united, doomed the buckle, and declared in favour of the "unmanly shoe string." On January 23, however, the buckle-makers received this bit of joyful news:—"It is with singular

pleasure that we state that, on the Queen's Birthday, *Buckles* were universally prevalent. The beauty and brilliancy of those worn by the Prince of Wales, Duke of York, and Earl of Fife, attracted the notice of the whole Drawing Room."

Considering the violence of the riots of 1791, and the animosity of the rioters, it is no wonder that it was necessary to insert such paragraphs as the following :—

February 20, 1792.—Some country papers having asserted that there have been fresh riots in this place, we think it necessary to say that, although numbers of the Button-makers have assembled in a tumultuous manner, in consequence of a difference about prices with their masters, no outrage has been committed ;—most of them have returned to their labour, and the dispute, we hope, will be amicably settled :—at all events, we trust there will not be found among them any so rash as to bring upon themselves the evils that will infallibly ensue from an attempt to raise a riot, with such a strong military force as the town now possesses.

The people at this time were alarmed by the appearance of a "fiery meteor," which, to their disordered imaginations, must have appeared of direful import :—

February 20, 1792.—On Thursday night, an uncommonly strong fiery meteor hung over this town, and had so much the appearance of being the effect of a dreadful fire, that people ran alarmed from all parts to discover the supposed conflagration. It continued an hour before it dissipated.

The next extract again refers to the buckle trade. The fact is highly creditable to the manufacturers, and is in keeping with all the public proceedings of the people of Birmingham. They have often failed in the exhibition of some of the virtues, but never in that of charity to the poor and afflicted. A subscription had been entered into to defray the expenses of the agitation for the preservation of this important branch of local industry, and a surplus remained in hand. On February 27 we read :—

"At a meeting of the principal Manufacturers of Buckles on Thursday last, in this Town, they humanely resolved to expend the surplus of their subscriptions in bread, for poor and industrious workmen."

The two following extracts furnish us with a little more information on the proceedings of the buckle-makers :—

February 27, 1792.—Thursday the Petition of the Buckle Traders of London and Westminster was presented to his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, at St. James's. The Royal Duke received the deputation with the considerateness and friendship that bespoke his interest in the prosperity of the Buckle Traders, and assured them—"that he

was the last to encourage shoe strings ; the custom of wearing them he always considered extremely ridiculous, and injurious to an extensive manufacture. That he never wore them himself, or suffered any of his officers on board to use them ; and as far as he could serve the trade, he should be always ready to afford it every encouragement, and on any future occasion to see the deputation where his influence was wanting to support a manufacture so agreeable to his wishes."

BUCKLE TRADE.

February 27, 1792.—At a numerous and respectable Meeting of the principal Manufacturers, held at the Union Tavern, Cherry Street, on Thursday last, the 23rd Instant, for the Purpose of receiving the Report of the Committees and to pass their Accounts, as also to determine in what manner the surplus Balance remaining in Hand should be disposed of:—

It was unanimously Resolved—

That the Thanks of this Meeting and Trade at large be given to those Gentlemen that acted on the Committees, for their indefatigable attention to promote, as far as possible, the Interest and Extension of the Buckle Trade in general.

That the Thanks of this Meeting and Trade at large be given to those Gentlemen who composed the Deputation appointed to present the Petitions from the Manufacturers to their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of York, for their firm, spirited, and successful Exertions.

That respectful Letters be sent, by the Chairman, to R. B. Sheridan, Esq., M.P., and to Major General Grenville, expressive of the grateful Sense the Trade at large entertain of their kindness, shewn towards them through the Persons of their Deputation, as also for their ready and polite Introduction of those Gentlemen to their Royal Highnesses.

That the full money be returned to such Subscribers as are not Manufacturers, accompanied with the Thanks of the Trade at large for their liberal Offers.

That a proportionate Share of the Surplus Balance be remitted to the Chairman of the Committees at Walsall and Wolverhampton, to be disposed of by the Subscribers there in such Way they approve.

That the whole Balance due to the Subscribers at Birmingham, be given in Household Bread to such of the industrious poor Workmen that come well recommended. Each Subscriber to have four Tickets ; which Tickets are to be sent for by the Subscribers to Mr. Pearson's, Printer, in the High-street, in the Course of the next Week, or they will, after that Time, be disposed of by the Committee to such Persons as bring creditable Recommendations.

THOMAS CHESTON, Chairman and Treasurer.

Our next relates to

ASHTED CHAPEL.

February 27, 1792.—Some misunderstanding having taken Place respecting the Rents of the Pews in this Chapel, the Public are respectfully informed that Plans, with the Rents of each Kneeling, may be seen at the Chapel, and at Mr. Brooke's, Temple Row, Birmingham.

The inconveniences arising from improper People coming into the principal Sittings will in future be prevented.

The high price of copper was now engaging the serious attention of our manufacturers. As we have previously seen, various meetings were held on the subject, and various plans adopted to remedy such an injurious state of prices. A deputation was appointed to wait upon the Prime Minister, and on March 12, appeared this notice of the result of the interview :—"We are happy to inform the public that the Minister paid every attention to the plans submitted to him by the deputation from this town, in consequence of the high price of copper, and he promised that the subject should have his serious and immediate consideration."

The feelings produced by the riots, and the irritation under which the sufferers must have borne their unjust losses, continued to betray themselves. Dr. Priestley, as we know, had addressed a manly Appeal to the People of Birmingham. The Rev. E. Burn undertook to produce a reply to this letter, which was to have been published on March 26. In the following announcement Mr. Burn states his reasons for not issuing his brochure according to promise, and they are honourable to him as a clergyman and a gentleman. We fear there were not many who took part in this controversy who would have acted with the same thoughtful consideration :—

To the Printer.

Mr. Pearson,—As I stand engaged by an advertisement in your paper of last Monday, to publish, this day, a Reply to Dr. Priestley's Appeal, I beg leave, through you, to assign the Reason of my not keeping my Word with the Public. It has been represented to me, by a friend of the Doctor, that the Publication of my Answer so immediately before the Assize, when there would be no opportunity of replying on his Part, might possibly create a Prejudice in the Public mind to his Disadvantage, and would therefore be considered by his Friends as an Act of Injustice to Dr. Priestley.

As there is nothing farther from my Intention than the wish of influencing any judicial Procedure that may respect Dr. Priestley as a Sufferer in the late Riots, I do for this Reason most cheerfully consent that the Publication of my Reply be deferred till this Day Se'nnight. In the mean Time, Sir, I take it for granted that no advantage will be taken of my Silence, inconsistent with that Regard for Justice by which I feel my own Conduct to be influenced in this Business.

I am, Sir, yours,

Birmingham, March 26, 1792. E. Burn.

Hutton, from his well-known penuriousness, was exposed to some not very pleasant reports, to which he thus replied :—

March 26, 1792.—The Reports that have been circulated to my Prejudice oblige me to a Public Vindication of my claim of 240*l.* as a Compensation for my Loss of Trade for two months. I still aver that my Profit, in the first Instance, is 1,440*l.* a Year; but it is not to be supposed that I can revel in this Annual Sum. I am obliged to pay, as current Expences, for carrying on the Business, 1,046*l.* 10s., before I can procure a Shilling for my own Attention and Labour, or the Support of my Family. My loss of Trade, since the Riots, is more than I have claimed, owing to the Want of various sorts of Paper. As the Emoluments were lost and the Expences remained, the Justice of my Claim appears.

The Profits of my Business do not exceed Ten per Cent. upon the Capital employed; for the Reasonableness of which I appeal to every Merchant and Manufacturer in Birmingham. That Capital at the Riots was 14,000*l.* Whether this Money was my own or another's makes no Alteration in the Case; every one knows 700*l.* a Year follows this Sum as Common Interest. The necessary Salaries of my Servants, who assist in the Business, amount to 196*l.* 10*s.*, the extra Rent and Taxes 50*l.*, and my annual Losses 100*l.*, as most of the Attorneys in Birmingham can testify. The remaining small Profit of 393*l.* 10*s.* oftener attends a Capital of 1,400*l.* than 14,000*l.* W. HUTTON.

The better supply of fish to the town was still engaging the attention of our public men; and in April this announcement was published:—

Birmingham, March 21, 1792.—At a Meeting of Subscribers for procuring a better Supply of Fish for this Market, it was unanimously resolved, at the Recommendation of the Committee, that the whole management of the Business, for one year from this Time, shall be left to six of the Committee, who have generously offered to undertake it. The Public are therefore informed that a constant Supply of Fish will continue to be obtained and sold on the usual low Terms at the New Fish Shop, in Bull Street.

W. VILLERS, Chairman.

Items of riot news still appear. The first extract points out one of the difficulties which arose in the settlement of claims; and the other speaks well for the High Bailiff:—

April 9, 1792.—The difference between the original claims on the Hundred and those made in Court was occasioned, it seems, partly by its appearing on the trials of the preceding week that the per centum charged on the whole estimates, and some other charges, could not, upon the construction of the Act, be allowed; and partly by some of the sufferers deducting for goods found or returned since the first claim was made.

April 16, 1792.—We have the pleasure to hear that the High-Bailiff, and many other Friends of the late unfortunate Mr. Ashwin, (who died in consequence of a wound received during the riots) intend opening a Subscription in this Town for the Benefit of his relict and her family of eight children; there can be but few instances in which the benevolent inhabitants of the town, and neighbourhood, can be more powerfully called upon to unite.

The next quotation has reference to the Copper and Brass trades:—

Birmingham, April 20, 1792.—At a Meeting of the Merchants and principal Manufacturers of this Town, Consumers of Copper and Brass, held this Day at the Hotel, pursuant to public Advertisements; Mr. VILLERS in the Chair;

The Chairman having read the Resolutions of the Meeting held at the Shakespeare Tavern on the 22nd of February last, which was convened for the purpose of taking into

consideration the high Price of Copper, and of consulting on the means proper to be pursued for removing the Evil, having also laid before the Meeting an Account of the Proceedings of the Deputation appointed at that former Meeting, and the Answer received from the Minister;

The following Resolutions passed Unanimously:

It being the Opinion of this Meeting that great inconveniences have arisen to the Trade of this Town from the present high Price of Copper, and that still greater inconveniences are likely to follow, unless some effectual Measures are speedily taken to prevent them.

Resolved 1st,—That this Meeting entirely approve the Resolutions of the Merchants and Manufacturers passed at the Shakespeare Tavern, on the 22nd of February last, on this subject.

Second, That this Meeting also approve the Measures taken by the Deputation, and desire them to accept the Thanks of this Meeting for their conduct.

Third, That the Thanks of this Meeting be also presented to Sir Robert Lawley, Bart., and Sir George Shuckburgh, Bart., for the Assistance which they afforded to the Deputation.

Fourth, That a Committee be appointed for the further Conduct of this Business, that they be desired to apply to the neighbouring Towns for their Concurrence, and that five be competent to act.

Fifth, That a Subscription be immediately entered into for defraying the Expenses already incurred, and to be incurred in this business.

Sixth, That the thanks of the Meeting be presented to the Chairman.

A Committee was accordingly appointed, and a Subscription was immediately opened by the Company present, twelve of whom undertook to obtain Subscriptions from such as were absent.

The result of the interview with Mr. Pitt is given on May 14. The editor is "happy to hear that the Gentlemen deputed from this Town to wait upon Mr. Pitt respecting the price of Copper, having had a second interview with that Gentleman, on Wednesday last, entertain hopes of success."

Trading on the Lord's Day continued to give trouble to the authorities, and to all the orderly and decent inhabitants:

BUTCHERS, PUBLICANS, AND HUCKSTERS.

The Churchwardens of this Town are very sorry to observe, that the Butchers, Hucksters, Publicans, &c., still continue to exercise their Trades on the Lord's Day, notwithstanding they have had Notice, both personally and by Public Advertisement, of the Consequence of their continuing such practices. Some of the Butchers have been presented at the Court of Lichfield, and paid a heavy Fine, which they hope will have the desired effect, in preventing others offending in future, for they are determined to present all those who do not pay a proper Regard to this Notice. Birmingham, May 7, 1792.

There was a dispute in the shoe trade, this year, but of the merits of the quarrel we have no information. The cause was, as is usual,

the rate of wages. According to the following advertisement, the masters appear to have acted with a high hand :—

May 14, 1792.—At a General Meeting of the Master Shoemakers of the Town of Birmingham, It was resolved unanimously, That we will not submit to our Journeymen in their present very unreasonable Demand of an Advance of Wages, as the Prices already given are equal, and in some Instances higher, than in most other Places in the Kingdom.

N.B. Every Encouragement will be given to sober and industrious Workmen.

On June 18, this unwelcome announcement was published :—

SHOEMAKERS.

It is with the greatest Reluctance that we are now under the disagreeable Necessity of informing our Friends, and the Public in general, that owing not only to the very exhorbitant Price of Leather, but every other Article made Use of in the Trade, and the great Difficulty of purchasing those Materials, even with ready money, we are absolutely necessitated to relinquish the Practice of giving Credit.

We are sensible this Information will be disagreeable to many; but we are fully convinced, that were every unprejudiced and dispassionate Person thoroughly informed of the Causes which compel us to do it, they would certainly acquiesce with us in the Measures we are now adopting. (Signed by 66 Persons.)

Also wanted a Number of Journeymen in the above Branch of Business; steady Men will meet with every Encouragement.—Birmingham, June, 1792.

As the time of the Anniversary of the taking of the Bastille drew near, fears were entertained that another attempt would be made to celebrate that glorious event. Accordingly the following notice that no such attempt would be made was issued :—

Birmingham, June 2, 1792.—A Report having been propagated that it is intended to celebrate the Commemoration of the French Revolution in this Town, on the 14th of July next ensuing—it is hereby declared by those who promoted the last Anniversary that the said Report is groundless. And although they have seen no Reason to change their Sentiments, that they ought to rejoice, as men, at the Emancipation of so many of their fellow Men from the Miseries of a Government universally allowed to be tyrannical: or, as Britons and good Citizens, that the beneficial Consequences of the French Revolution to the Commerce and to the Finances of this Country, by preventing Foreign Wars, have been already felt, and have contributed to the National Peace and Prosperity—yet they are too much the Friends of Peace and Order to endanger the public Tranquillity in the present Crisis. They conclude this Advertisement with the same sentiment as they began their last Meeting, by declaring their Loyalty to "the King and Constitution," * their attachment to which remains unaltered, notwithstanding the Injuries which some of them have received from the temporary Delusion of their Townsmen.

Here is an entry worth preserving :—

July 9, 1792.—Died. On Friday last, in Digbeth, in this town, in the 103rd year of his age, John Roberts, who retained his faculties to the last, and followed his employment

* This was the first Toast at the Hotel, 14th July, 1791.

within a few weeks of his death. This extraordinary old man married three wives, by whom he had 28 children; he was nearly 80 when he married last, and had six of the children by her.

The damage done by the riots was—or at least the amount allowed by the court was—£26,961 2s. 3d. The rate was levied on the Hundred of Hemlingford, and the following is the account of the plan adopted :—

HEMLINGFORD HUNDRED.

July 23, 1792.—At a Meeting of the Magistrates resident in, and acting for, the Hundred of Hemlingford, in the County of Warwick, the 26th day of July, 1792, at the Swan Inn, in Coleshill.

Resolved, That for the purpose of raising the different Sums recovered aginst the Inhabitants of this Hundred, for the late Riots at Birmingham, by an equal and impartial Rate, the Constables, Overseers, and other Officers, acting under the different Acts of Parliament for raising the Levies within the Parishes in this Hundred, be required to make a Return of their several Rates and Assessments.

Resolved, That it appears to this Meeting that a Statement of the Poor Levies and Window Assessments, in the different Parishes within the Hundred, are the most likely Means to obtain such Knowledge as will enable them to make an equal Rate.

AYLESFORD.	R. MOLAND.
R. NEWDEGATE.	T. CARLES.
M. SADLER.	B. SPENCER.

This year was remarkable for the introduction of barracks for the army. The grievances of the billetting system had become intolerable; and it was specially injurious to the character of the soldier and the discipline of the army. On August 17, 1792, we read :—

With the liberal view of relieving the Publicans of large towns, upon whom a number of horse and other soldiers are oftentimes very inconveniently quartered, Government have adopted the plan of erecting Barracks, where they will be lodged, and provide for themselves. They have already, we understand, begun to build them at Manchester, Sheffield and Nottingham; and last week Colonel De Lancey agreed with Mr. Brooke for four acres of his land, at Ashted, to erect the barracks upon, near this town; the spot is highly approved by all the officers who have surveyed it; and the adjacent land will, no doubt, soon be covered with other buildings.

The first stone of the Birmingham Barracks was laid on August 28, 1792.

The minute and detailed nature of the taxes, at this unhappy period, was fearfully troublesome and irritating to tradesmen. Almost every article of use and of luxury was taxed. The consequence was, that there were many opportunities for the dishonest tradesmen to evade

the laws. This seems to have been especially the case with hats and gloves; and the following report of a meeting of these trades affords us a good picture of the troubles of the times :—

SHAKESPEARE TAVERN.

Birmingham, Sept. 26, 1792.—At a Meeting of the Retailers of Hats and Gloves, convened by advertisement, held here this day; Resolved unanimously, That we, whose names are hereunto annexed, well aware of the great Injury sustained,—not only to the Revenue of that Government under which we live, but to the fair and conscientious Trader, by the very partial Method in which the Labels on Hats and Gloves are at present made use of or evaded, do pledge ourselves to Government, to the Public, and to each other, that we will not sell, in future, any Hats or Gloves without the proper Stamps being properly affixed; and as by such a Resolution we are fully sensible we shall materially suffer in our Business if others in the trade continue to pursue a different Course, and sell without Stamps; we further resolve that, in Justice to ourselves and Families, should any such Instances come to our Knowledge, we shall think ourselves fully justified in giving immediate Intelligence to the Committee, that they may inform the proper Officers, who have promised at this Meeting that they will use their utmost Endeavours to convict the Offenders.

At this time, one of the most shameful charges that could be made against an Englishman, was made against a Birmingham Manufacturer. Mr. Gill was charged with having made daggers for the French. As they are curiously illustrative of the times, we quote the statement and the defence :—

October 22, 1792.—An illiberal and unfounded article having appeared in a late London print, *The Sun*, reflecting on the reputation of Mr. Gill, of this town, charging him with manufacturing 20,000 daggers for Dr. Maxwell, of London, &c., (supposed for the French Jacobins) we have his authority to contradict it in direct terms. It is true a person of the name of Maxwell did call upon him, and the other sword-makers of this place, for the purpose of ordering daggers, all of whom were equally ready to make them for him, as will more fully appear in Mr. Gill's statement of facts, which he has already sent to the paper in which the falsehood originally appeared.

Mr. Gill's reply appeared in the next paper :—

DR. MAXWELL'S DAGGERS.

To the Printers of Aris's Birmingham Gazette.

Sir,—Much having been said on the Subject of Dr. Maxwell's Daggers, in which my Name has been unjustly traduced, I request you will insert the following fair Statement in your next Paper.

THOMAS GILL.

Birmingham, October 23, 1792.—On Monday, the 10th of September, which proves to be two Days before the intended Meeting, of the Doctor himself I then knew nothing at all, a Person called on me, who said his Name was William Maxwell, that he wanted some Daggers (mounted with Handles and Scabbards complete) which he then described, and

which he supposed to be in my Line of Manufacture as a Sword-maker; that he had already been with Messrs. Dawes, Harvey, and Woolley (who are also Sword-makers at this Place), and he requested to know what Price I could render such at. I replied, that I must first consider of it, and if he called again I would then inform him of my Price. Immediately after this Mr. Dawes called upon me, and brought a Dagger with him, which he had already prepared as a Specimen for Mr. Maxwell; that he came to consult with me about the Prices of such, as he understood from Mr. Maxwell himself that he would call upon me respecting them; Mr. Dawes at the same Time added, that Mr. Woolley had also been with him, consulting upon their Prices; that they had agreed the Price should be 22s. per Dozen, and they both requested I would not make them for a less Price, when I assured Mr. Dawes that I certainly would not. Soon afterwards Mr. Maxwell called upon me again, and I then informed him of those Terms for the Daggers, to which he did not object—said he found we all of us had been consulting each other upon the Business, but as he preferred my Manufacture, so he would give all his Orders to me, and requested that I would proceed in the making of, at least, three or four thousand of them upon a certainty; that he should go to London that Evening, and would return to Birmingham in about a Week afterwards, when he doubted not he should confirm an Order to me for at least twenty thousand. A few of these were consequently made; but as I neither saw nor heard from Mr. Maxwell at his appointed Time of returning to Birmingham, and I having heard of the disturbance which happened on the 12th of September, at Dr. Maxwell's House, in London, I instantly stopped all proceedings in the making of Daggers. In this Interval Mr. Dawes had waited upon me again, shewed me an Undertaking that Mr. Woolley had signed and brought to him, which he had also copied, signed, and interchanged with Mr. Woolley, both of which were as follows, except their Addresses and Signature (viz.)—

Mr. Dawes,—I have offered the Daggers at 22s. per Dozen, the Boarding Spikes at 12s., with 5 per Cent. Money, and shall not make any Alteration without consulting you. (Signed)

"Monday, September 10th, 1792." JAMES WOOLLEY.

Mr. Dawes at the same Time brought another exact copy of the above, addressed to me, but dated on the 11th of September, signed by himself only, and said it was Mr. Woolley's Request, as also his own, that I would give him another to the same Tenor and Purport, signed by me, for their mutual satisfaction in this Business, which I immediately complied with, and gave to Mr. Dawes, and which is literally as under:—

"Mr. Dawes, I have offered the Daggers at 22s. per Dozen, the Boarding Spikes at 12s., with 5 per cent. Discount for Money; and shall not make any Alteration without consulting you. The above is written purely to correspond with your note to me, as also the one from Mr. Woolley to yourself; and as you had informed me that you both had agreed that the Price of the Daggers should be 22s. per Dozen with 5 per Cent. Discount for Money, so I determined not to supply any of them under those Terms, and I have Orders for some Thousands of them upon the above terms; and as I had been consulted through you (which in this Case I consider as by both of you) I hereby liberally propose to both of you, that either or both are welcome to make as many of them as either or both may wish to undertake. (Signed) THOMAS GILL.

"Birmingham, September 12th, 1792."

In the latter end of September another person called upon me, and proposed to make himself responsible for the payment for three or four thousand of the same sort of Daggers, if I would undertake to supply them to him, upon which I made this my Business fully known to the Treasury, also sent one of the Daggers there; and on the 30th of September I have an acknowledgment of their Receipt by a Letter, from the contents of which I feel myself perfectly at Liberty to make such Daggers, and which there is not a Doubt that any or every one of the Manufacturers of Swords or Daggers of this Place would readily engage to compleat and to supply. This certainly must convince every Body that I have in all of this Business acted consistently, and as becomes a good Citizen, that my Neighbours in the Sword Trade really are not more virtuous in this Dagger Business than myself—although the contrary has been very roundly asserted in the *Sun*.

THOMAS GILL.

In the midst of all these troubles and perplexities—these wars and rumours of wars—it is refreshing to find that the works of charity and benevolence were not allowed to be forgotten. Thus, in October, the following meeting was held :—

Society for the general Reform and Self-support of the criminal and destitute Poor of Great Britain.

October 29, 1792.—By desire of several Subscribers and Friends to this Undertaking, a Meeting is proposed to be held at the Shakespeare Tavern, Birmingham, This Day, October 29, at Five o'Clock in the Afternoon, to concert Measures for the most effectual support of a Place of so much Importance to the whole Kingdom, and the Attendance is requested of such Gentlemen as wish to forward this Design.

The next three extracts explain themselves. They afford another illustration of the energy with which the Birmingham people always co-operated to remove an evil, or to supply a want :—

Birmingham, November 12th, 1792.—Between two and three o'clock yesterday morning a most alarming fire broke out in the workshops of Mr. Chamberlain, cooper, in Bread-street, which almost entirely destroyed the same, and consumed a great number of casks, all the tools, and a quantity of timber, before it could be extinguished, notwithstanding the speedy assistance of the inhabitants, and the attendance of the officers and privates of the Oxford Blues, quartered here, to whose conduct upon this, and every other recent similar occasion, the town must hold itself infinitely obliged. There is every reason to believe the premises were maliciously set on fire. Another timber yard of Mr. Chamberlain's was attempted to be fired about three weeks ago: and the vile incendiaries contrived, under cover of the darkness of the night, whilst it was coming or when it arrived, to cut in two the brass pipe of one of the engines, in order to prevent its playing.

FIFTY POUNDS REWARD FOR DISCOVERY OF INCENDIARIES.

Birmingham, November 11, 1792.—Many attempts of the same kind having been recently made in that Neighbourhood, there is great Reason to apprehend that the alarming Fire which happened this Morning in Bread-street, New-market, was wilfully

occasioned. I do hereby, on behalf of the Town, offer a Reward of Fifty Pounds to any Person by whose Information the Perpetrators of this atrocious Villainy may be brought to Justice, and convicted thereof.

T. Cooper, High-Bailiff.

November 26, 1792.—In consequence of the late Fire in Bread-street (with the probably wicked Occasion of it), together with the many Disturbances from Nightly Depredators, a Meeting was held at Mr. Chamberlain's, in Bread Street, on Monday, November 12, which was numerous and very respectable, when it was determined to establish a Nightly Patrol, and the following Resolutions were entered and passed:—

Resolved, 1.—That a Committee, consisting of Eighty, be appointed, to conduct the Night Patrol of District No. 2, in Newhall Street, and such neighbouring Branches as are specified in a Plan of the District.

2.—That the Laws of District No. 1, be strictly adhered to in this; and that Copies of the same be printed as soon as possible, and distributed to each Subscriber.

3.—That the under-mentioned Gentlemen begin the Patrol this Evening:—Messrs. Homer, Townsend, Shore, and Beilby.

4.—That a Night Constable be appointed to accompany the Patrol.

5.—That the above Resolutions be published in each of the Birmingham Papers.

November 22, 1792. W. Beilby, Chairman.

All Birmingham people who looked at the *Gazette* on November 26, 1792, would read with pleasure "that Dr. Withering, who lately left this place on account of ill health, is safely arrived in Lisbon, after a pleasant passage of twelve days from Falmouth." Dr. Withering was one of the earliest and most eminent of the physicians of the General Hospital. In Mr. Bunce's useful little book we have the following account of this local "worthy":—

"We owe," writes Mr. Bunce, "to Dr. Withering another of the first four Physicians, the introduction into practice of Digitalis, or "The Foxglove,"* a boon which it is difficult to estimate too highly, and which will serve as carrier of his reputation to a remote posterity. He was one of the most eminent English botanists of his time, and wrote a large work, in two volumes, on "The Vegetables which grow in England,"† comprising a full account of the botanical characters, the medical properties, and economic uses of our indigenous plants. It is dated 1776, three years only before his election to the Hospital. The preface is very interesting, and written with incomparable modesty. In it he makes the curious confession that much of what was then known of the medical uses of vegetables was, in fact, but little more than mere superstition and vulgar tradition, and expressed his conviction that a thorough examination by competent observers of their reputed properties was quite indispensable to exact knowledge. Of the former fact his book abounds in illustrations. Among the rest we find that the very familiar and safe bitter, known to all doctors, nurses (and many brewers, we fear), under the name of Gentian, was reputed, in 1776, to possess the power of producing "scirrhosities of the

* Birmingham: M. Swinney, 1785.

† Of this work a Fifth Edition, in 4 vols., was published in 1812.

liver, palsy, and apoplexy!" Of the latter necessity, and of the great advantages connected therewith, Dr. Withering himself gave us a shining instance by his investigation concerning Foxglove. He was connected with the Hospital thirteen years, and must have greatly contributed to its early reputation. There is a very good monument, with a bust of him, in the Old Church, at Edgbaston."*

The following extracts furnish us with a curious incident in connection with the riots. The persons concerned had evidently taken their time in explaining the affair to the public :—

December 3, 1792.—Facts Respecting the Water Engines of St. Martin's Parish, during the Time of the Riots.

On the 14th of July, 1791, Joseph Neal, who has the Care of these Engines, had been exhibiting Fire Works at Vauxhall, and in his Return was insulted by the Rioters engaged in burning the New Meeting House, who threatened Destruction to him and the Engines if they were brought for the purpose of extinguishing. Mr. W. Humphreys, and his Nephew, went, about Eleven in the Evening, to demand the Engines of Samuel Brooke, were referred by him to the Churchwardens, and when their Order was obtained, Samuel Brooke gave all possible Assistance, and Neal was waiting at the Engine House with the keys in his hand. The Engines were taken along a Part of Edgbaston-street, but Mr. W. Humphreys, and his Nephew, soon disappeared; Mr. Myles followed their example; upon which, Mr. Wallis, and his two Sons, ordered Neal to take the Engines back again. The general cry of the People, in the mean Time, was that the Engines would be useless, and that Neal would be in danger of losing his life. As soon as the Engines were brought back, S. Brooke wrote a Letter, in the Vestry, to the Rector, at Solyhull, with which J. Neal's Son set out, at one o'clock in the Morning, on Foot. The Rector, before the Receipt of this Letter, was a Stranger to all the Proceedings, had given no Orders whatsoever respecting the Engines, and the first time he interfered was in the Course of the following Day, when he ordered them to be taken to Mr. Ryland's House, but without Success, as the Rioters would not suffer them to be used. Two of the Engines had, however, been played with effect, for two hours, from Eight till Ten, of the 15th of July, upon the Buildings adjoining to the Old Meeting House.

SAMUEL BROOKE,

Birmingham, December 1, 1792. JOSEPH NEAL.

A STATEMENT.

Occasioned by a Misrepresentation of Facts, relative to the horrid Riots of 1791.

Mr. Printer, Sir,—In your *Gazette* of Monday, the 3rd instant, I find myself mentioned in some Paragraphs, intitled Facts, respecting the Water Engines of St. Martin's, &c., to which the Names of S. Brooke, and J. Neal, are subjoined. I do not mean, Sir, to enter into any Altercation with these Persons, but only to assure the Public that it is a misrepresentation, except in those Circumstances in which it agrees with the Account given by the Rev. J. Edwards, in Page 343 of his last Letter in the *British Nation*, No. 4, where the Public will find them properly and truly stated, and of which the following is a Copy.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

WILLIAM HUMPHREYS.

* The Birmingham General Hospital, and Triennial Musical Festivals. [By J. T. Bunce.] pp. 25, 26.

Next week we learn that a new engine had been presented to the town :—

December 24, 1792.—The Royal Exchange Assurance Company have presented an Engine to this Town, which is kept at the warehouse of Mrs. Salt, in Congreve-street.

This year closed, and the new year opened with the usual distress, and the usual activity in its relief. On January 7, 1793, we read that the "benevolent subscription of the inhabitants for supplying the poor with bread at half-price already exceeds the sum of £1,300."

It was proposed to make a canal from this town to Warwick, and some of the inhabitants foolishly thought that such a project would, if carried out, raise the price of coals, and consequently it was their duty to oppose the scheme. This narrow-sighted policy found expression at a meeting, of which the following is the report :—

Birmingham, January 25, 1793.—At a numerous Meeting of the Inhabitants of this Town, held at the Hotel, in Temple Row, in pursuance of an Advertisement inserted by Mr. William Barrs, Constable, in the *Birmingham Chronicle* of Yesterday, requesting their Attendance there at Three o'clock, to take into consideration the probable ill consequences of the intended Canal from Birmingham to Warwick, and how far such Canal will affect the Price of Coals in Birmingham ; Mr. Barrs was called to the Chair, and the following Resolutions passed unanimously :—

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Meeting, that the intended Canal from Birmingham to Warwick will open an additional Drain for taking Coals from the Collieries by which Birmingham is supplied.

That it is the Duty of every Inhabitant of the Town to oppose a Measure pregnant with so much Mischief to the Manufacturers, and evidently so injurious to the Inhabitants at large.

That a Petition be presented to Parliament, on Behalf of the Inhabitants of the Town, against the said intended Canal from Birmingham to Warwick.

A Petition to Parliament against the Bill for making a Canal from Birmingham to Warwick be now read.

Resolved, That such Petition be adopted as the Petition of the Inhabitants of the Town. That the Members for the County be requested to present and support the Petition ; and that the Chairman be requested to wait upon them with the same, together with a Copy of these Resolutions.

That these Resolutions be signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Meeting, and that they be published in the two Birmingham, the Coventry, Oxford, and some of the London Papers.

That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman for his ready Consent to convene this Meeting when requested, and for his polite attention to the Business.

WILLIAM BARRS, Chairman.

The time had long since arrived when the two constables were found inadequate to look after the safety and to preserve the security of the town. The inhabitants had, in some measure, supplied the deficiency, by providing and paying night patrols. It was now resolved to seek the aid of Parliament in obtaining a police bill. On February 18, 1793, this intimation of the fact appeared :—

We hear a police bill for this town is intended to be brought into Parliament the present sessions, and that Joseph Carless, Esq., and the Rev. Dr. Spencer, are to be two of the magistrates appointed therein.

Here is an instance of the fanatacism of the time, and an example of one of the methods adopted in displaying it :—

TOM PAINE.

February 18, 1793.—On Tuesday last, a well-dressed representation of the Author of "The Rights of Man," with that work in one hand, a pair of stays under his arm, and a label at his back, expressing "The Arch-traitor, Tom Paine, Erskine's Client," was exhibited through the principal streets of this town; he was attended by two chimney-sweepers, one of whom, in a grave clerical wig, alternately exhorted and prayed for him with great solemnity, and wiped the tears from his eyes; but the culprit, on the approach of death, as in his life, seemed to pay but little attention to religious exercises. He was hanged on a gallows twenty feet high, surrounded with faggots; but the weight of his treasons breaking the rope, he was torn in pieces by the indignant spectators, and thrown into the fire. After expressing their loyalty by singing "God save the King," &c., the concourse of people, which was very great, quietly dispersed, without being guilty of any disturbance whatever. The hangman who attended the arch rebel, carried the painting of a Fox with a halter round his neck, and the music played "The Rogue's March."

The fanaticism displayed itself in a worse fashion than burning Tom Paine's effigy. An attempt was made to burn down the Swedenborgian Church in Newhall Street.

Birmingham, March 11.—Yesterday morning, about two o'clock, several of the pews in the Jerusalem Temple, in this town, were discovered to be on fire; but by the timely assistance of the watchmen and neighbourhood, the flames were soon extinguished. There is no doubt but some incendiary had got into the Temple through a window, and lighted a quantity of combustibles, which he took with him.

The Rev. J. Proud, the first minister of this, the first, Swedenborgian place of worship in England, issued the following address on this incendiary attempt :—

An Address to the Inhabitants of Birmingham, from the Society meeting at the New Jerusalem Temple.

March 21, 1793.—It is with unspeakable pleasure that we have to Address our Fellow Citizens and Townsmen on the present occasion. Great and painful as our Troubles have been, yet they are peculiarly alleviated by that generous and humane Spirit which those troubles have called forth, and so conspicuously manifested. We think ourselves under the highest and most lasting Obligations to those Gentlemen who have so

nobly come forward with a professed Desire of bringing to light the daring and vile Incendiary, who, divested of all Humanity, could attempt the Destruction of an Edifice devoted to religious Worship; and we can but most ardently hope their Endeavours to bring to Justice the wicked Perpetrators of so base a Deed may be crowned with the fullest Success. It gives us the highest pleasure, and calls forth our warmest gratitude, to find that Gentlemen of the Establishment, and of religious Sentiments different from our own, have with Candour and true Christian Charity interested themselves in our Behalf, and that their Humanity and Virtue have totally prevailed over all Party Spirit and Bigotry. Nor shall we ever forget the Friendship and Affection so recently manifested towards us, both by Churchmen and Dissenters. Their sympathizing with us, with so much Sensibility and Kindness, will endear their Names to our Hearts. By these repeated Marks of their Esteem, Generosity, and Kindness, we are convinced that the idle *Reports*, and malevolent *Censurers*, of the *unprincipled* and *envious*, are treated by them with that Contempt such ill-natured and illiberal Reflections will ever merit. Our most ardent Wishes for the Welfare and Prosperity of the Kingdom, to which we belong, have been publicly and solemnly declared in our Address to the Gentlemen who met at the Hotel; and, which Address was honoured with their united Approbation. Our sentiments *remain,* and will invariably remain, the same as therein expressed. And our united Efforts will ever be employed to suppress Anarchy and Disorder, to promote the Peace, Harmony, and Prosperity of the Nation in which we live, and to be as useful to our Fellow men as we have it in our Power to be. We are convinced that the sensible and judicious inhabitants of Birmingham are too liberal in their Sentiments, and too virtuous in Principle, to look with Contempt or Disrespect upon their fellow Townsmen, who may differ with them in Judgment with respect to some circumstantials of Christianity, as to God alone every Man is accountable for his Thoughts and Opinions. As, therefore, such a Generous and Benevolent Spirit does actually appear at this Time, we can but sincerely wish that it may spread and diffuse itself through every Class of Men, be cultivated by all, and unite the whole Town in fraternal Bonds of Friendship, Affection, and Goodwill; Happy shall we be to concur with all, without any regard to Name or Profession, in every possible Endeavour to restore that Harmony, good Order, and Unanimity so essential to the Welfare and Prosperity of this Populous Town. The grand Principle with us, next to the Love of God, is, to Love all Men as we love ourselves—and our highest Ambition is, to display that Principle in every Part of our private and public Conduct. And we are persuaded there are Numbers more of every Denomination whose Ambition is the same, and whose desire to promote public and social Happiness is equally as Ardent as our own. May we all, therefore, in the present convulsed State of Kingdoms, and amidst the various Dissensions of the Nation in which we live, *forget—for ever forget*—the odious Distinctions and Party Animosities which have no other Tendency than to promote Confusion and Enmity; and as *Men*, as *Christians*, as *Brethren*, unite our Hearts, our Hands, and all the Powers we boast, in a laudable and vigorous Endeavour to make each other happy in Life, and bless the Kingdom to which we belong. In this honourable and important Work, we profess ourselves ready to join our fellow Townsmen of every Description; and may the happy Day soon, very soon, arrive, when it shall be truly said that Party Spirit, Bigotry, and Enmity, those hateful Demons, are fled to the Infernal Regions, and that Peace, Friendship, Harmony, and Affection reign, unite Heart to Heart, Man to Man, and diffuse Happiness to every Individual in Birmingham!

Signed in the Name and Behalf of the whole Society,

J. PROUD.

In this month died Sir Robert Lawley, Bart. He had been one of the Members for North Warwickshire, since 1780; was a most useful County Member; and had rendered great services to Birmingham. He was a warm friend of the General Hospital and the other charities of the town. This will suffice to introduce the next three extracts.

March 18, 1793.—Died. On Monday, at Kensington, Sir Robert Lawley, Bart., one of the Representatives in Parliament for this county since the General Election in the year 1780. Sir Robert is succeeded in his title and estates by his eldest son (now Sir Robert) and has left other issue two sons and four daughters. As a Member of Parliament, Sir Robert Lawley was most independent, and attentive to the interests of his Constituents; as a Member of Society, the loss of him is sincerely and affectionately lamented by his friends; and he has died universally regretted by the poor in the neighbourhood of his residence, who have sensibly experienced that he amply fulfilled the duties of a real Christian.

On the Death of Sir Robert Lawley, Bart.

If useful knowledge and a heart sincere,
A man can render to his country dear,
With readiness to serve when call'd upon,
In what was judged expedient to be done;
If worthy deeds adorn the human breast,
Long to the world his worth will stand confest;
True to his trust, he constantly adhered,
He lov'd his Country, and his King revered.

Birmingham, March 14, 1793.—At a Meeting of Freeholders of the County of Warwick, resident in the Town and Neighbourhood of Birmingham, held this Day at the Hotel, pursuant to public Notice, Mr. Villers in the chair,

It was unanimously Resolved,

1. That it is desirable immediately to assure Sir John Mordaunt, Baronet, that this Meeting believe it to be the general Wish of the Inhabitants of Birmingham that he should be elected a Knight of the Shire, in the Room of our late worthy Representative, Sir Robert Lawley, Bart., deceased.

In this year the Bank of England began to issue five-pound notes; and the local bankers issued five-guinea notes. Some doubts about the latter appear to have existed, for a meeting was called, at which a resolution on the subject was adopted:—

April 1st, 1793.—At a most numerous and respectable Meeting of the Inhabitants of this Town and Neighbourhood, held at the Hotel this Day, pursuant to a Notice given in the *Birmingham Gazette*, Mr. W. Barks in the Chair,

It was unanimously Resolved,

That every Confidence may be placed in the Five Guinea Notes issued by the following established Bankers of this Town, viz., Messrs. Taylor and Lloyds, Robert Coales, Esq., Messrs. Dickenson and Goodall, Messrs. Spooner, Attwoods, and Ainsworth, and Messrs.

Bloxam, Yates, Goddington, Francis, Smith, and Knight; and we pledge ourselves to the Public, and to each other, to take them in Payments as usual.

That these Resolutions be immediately circulated in Hand Bills through the Town and Neighbourhood, and advertised in the Town and Country Papers.

That thanks be given to the Chairman for his Attention to the general Interests of the Town, in calling this Meeting, and for his obliging conduct in the Chair.

A day of general fast and humiliation was appointed by the King, and was loyally observed by the inhabitants.

April 22, 1793.—Friday, the day appointed by the King for a general fast and humiliation, was strictly observed in this town. All the shops were shut up, and the places of worship were more than usually crowded. A collection of upwards of thirty-seven pounds was made at St. Mary's Chapel, and another collection at Deritend Chapel, for the distressed emigrant Clergy of France. A seasonable act of benevolence; and an example which we hope will be followed by every other congregation in this town and neighbourhood.

To give the necessary powers for borrowing the money to pay for the damage caused by the riots, an act of Parliament had to be obtained. The following is a brief report of the debate :—

HEMLINGFORD HUNDRED BILL.

May 13, 1793.—Upon the motion for the Speaker to leave the chair, in order for the House to resolve itself into a Committee upon this Bill, for borrowing the greater part of the money to pay the Sufferers in the late riots at Birmingham; Mr. Whitbread opposed the Speaker's leaving the chair, in which he was supported by Mr. Courtnay, Mr. Fox, Mr. Grey, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Sheridan, who contended that this was a measure to alleviate the punishment justly due to the most atrocious rioters, merely because they were rioters in defence of King and Church,—that it was in a great measure a repeal of the Riot Act, and that in its effects it went to the promotion and encouragement of such disorders. They were opposed by Sir John Mordaunt, Sir Henry Gough Calthorp, Mr. Wigley, the Attorney General, the Solicitor General, and Mr. Ryder, upon the principle that many parts of the Hundred of Hemlingford extended to a distance of twenty miles from the scene of riot, and that it would be injustice not to afford every temporary relief and succour to men who could not, by any possibility, have been present at, or accessory to, the riots. They also remarked, that the sufferers would, by means of the Bill, be more quickly paid, and much distress to the lower orders of the Hundred, and the farmers, who had no concern in the riots, be avoided.

The question at last was put and carried, when the House resolved itself into a Committee, and went through the Bill.

Friday, May 10.—The report on the Hemlingford Hundred Bill was brought up and read, and ordered to be engrossed.

On May 20, we read :—

On Tuesday last, the Hemlingford Hundred Bill was read a third time, and passed the House of Commons, and Sir G. Shuckburgh, Bart., was ordered to carry it up to the Lords for their concurrence.

The next extract records the final passing of the bill, and gives some additional information on the subject:—

HEMLINGFORD HUNDRED BILL.

June 3rd, 1793.—This bill, for the more easy raising the money for paying the damages and costs incurred by the late Riots, has now passed both Houses of Parliament.

The sum to be raised, including damages and plaintiffs' costs, and the costs and expences in defending the action, is £29,704 and upwards. The commissioners for carrying the act into execution are the Magistrates acting for the Hundred, and the Members for the County, who are to meet within Twenty-one days after passing the act, and hold such further Meetings as they shall think proper. They are empowered to appoint a Clerk and Treasurer, and to borrow, at interest, not exceeding £24,000, and they are to cause the assessments to be made upon the inhabitants, and the constables or head boroughs are to collect the Rates. The whole money to be assessed must be assessed within three years from the 1st of June, 1793. The sufferers are to be allowed an interest at the rate of five per cent. upon the sums of money for which they have received judgment, from the first day of January, 1793. In case of the removal of any persons from premises assessed, before they have paid the rate or assessment, the collectors are authorised (having a warrant for that purpose from the Commissioners) to collect such rate by distress on the Goods of such person in any other part of the county, or elsewhere; then the collectors may distress upon the goods of any other person in occupation of the said premises, in the same manner as if such occupier had been originally assessed by virtue of the act. All deficiences of rates are to be made good by a re-assessment upon the inhabitants of the place.

On May 27, 1793, we read :—"On Friday, Mr. Clay, of this town, had the honour of introducing to their Majesties and the Princesses, at the Queen's Palace, a new material for painting upon, infinitely superior to any substance hitherto used for its surface and durability." This was Papier Maché; for the manufacture of which Mr. Clay had taken out a patent eleven years before his interview with the Royal family. Mr. W. C. Aitken says:—"The invention of the material, as produced by pasting together sheets of paper, is due to Henry Clay, of 19, Newhall Street, in early life an apprentice to the celebrated John Baskerville, who, at that time, was engaged in the japanning trade. Long previous to Clay's invention, however, papier maché had been made by reducing paper to pulp and pressing it into dies. Clay did not take out his patent till 1772. He formed the papier maché by pasting together sheets of spongy paper over variously shaped 'cores' or moulds of metal. At an early period he indicated the future extensive application of his invention for panels for chariots, cabins of ships, window shutters, mantle-pieces, tea trays, card and dressing tables, and every other species of

elegant furniture. He also stated that it could be sawn, planed, or turned like wood, and that, after being japanned, it could be brought up to the highest polish by friction with the human hand. Many of the original articles made by him are still in use, and fully confirm the enduring character he claimed for his material."*

Mr. Clay became one of our most active public men. He was High Sheriff of the County in 1790; and we have previously given an illustration of the "pomp and splendour" with which he surrounded the office.†

The Post Master of the town got into some trouble, through which he was helped by several gentlemen. He thus returns his thanks:—

POST OFFICE, BIRMINGHAM.

June 3, 1793.—The generous Patronage and kind Interposition of my Friends on a late trying Occasion, interesting in the highest Degree to my Family, and to myself, impresses me with warmest Sentiments and Gratitude and respectful Esteem. It would, I presume, be deemed as tedious as unnecessary for me to dwell on the Circumstances which gave rise to my late temporary Suspension, but as I am now fully reinstated, through the Interest and persevering Assiduities of Gentlemen of the first Respectability, my future Life shall be devoted to the Duties of my Office; and my Friends may rest assured that I shall ever retain the most grateful Sense of the Obligations they have conferred upon me,

JOHN GOTTWALTZ,
Post Master, Birmingham.

The king's birthday was observed in the usual loyal manner :—

June 10, 1793.—Tuesday, the anniversary of his Majesty's Birthday, was observed here as usual. Public Dinners were given at the Hotel and Shakespear Tavern, which were numerously and respectably attended. At the latter the Hon. Captain Capel took the Chair, when many loyal and constitutional toasts were given, appropriate to the day. At the Hotel, in the absence (through indisposition) of our worthy magistrate, Joseph Carles, Esq., the Constable, presided, and the day passed with that loyalty and conviviality which has ever distinguished similar public meetings in this town.

This was speedily followed by rejoicings for a victory :—

August 5, 1793.—On Thursday, when the news arrived here of the surrender of Valenciennes, the bells of our churches were rung, and cannon and guns were fired; and on Friday evening the whole town was illuminated.

Another royal birthday was celebrated in this fashion :—

August 19, 1793.—Friday, the Birthday of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, was celebrated in this place by the ringing of bells, firing of guns, &c., and at night by a grand and general illumination. Several beautiful transparencies of his Royal Highness, of his coronet, cypher, and arms, and emblems of his victory at Valenciennes, were exhibited by the inhabitants in different parts of the town.

* Birmingham and the Midland Hardware District. Papier Maché Manufacture. By W. C. Aitken, p. 566.

† Vol. I, p. 347.

The establishment of a penny post in this town is a subject of greater importance than the festivities caused by royal birthdays. On the 19th of August we read that "Two of the principal Officers of the General Post Office arrived here last week, for the purpose of immediately establishing a penny-post in the town." And on September 2, the regulations for the new system were published :—

POST OFFICE, BIRMINGHAM.

August 27, 1793.—His Majesty's Post Master General having been pleased to settle and establish a Penny Post, for the Convenience of this Town, the Suburbs thereof, and Places adjacent—Notice is hereby given, that Offices are opened for the Receipt of Letters and Packets, (not exceeding four Ounces in Weight) from Seven in the Morning till Nine o'clock at Night, at the following Places:

Mr. Hewitt's, Grocer, No. 48, Smallbrook-street.

Mr. Stevens's, Grocer, No. 72, Digbeth, near Deritend Bridge.

Mr. Murcott's, Grocer, Coleshill-street, opposite Market-street.

Mr. Lutey's, Grocer, Steelhouse Lane, the Corner of Whittall-street.

Mr. Smith's, Grocer, Church-street, Ludgate Hill.

From which Places Letters will be sent to the principal Office, opposite the Theatre, in New-street, four Times a Day, viz.—

At Eight o'clock in the Morning, for the first Delivery, and in Time to be forwarded by the North Mail, via Lichfield;

At Twelve o'clock at Noon, for the second Delivery, and in Time for the Mail going to Shrewsbury;

At a Quarter before Two in the Afternoon, for the London Mail; and, for the third Delivery, at Half-past Three o'clock;

And at Four o'clock in the Afternoon, for the Mail going to Bristol; on or before which Times Letters should be put into the above Offices, in order to be sent by the earliest Conveyance; for which One Penny will be charged in the Town, and Two Pence for the Suburbs and Places within the Limits of the Penny Post, to be paid on putting in, or on Delivery, at the option of the Writers; except Letters intended to be forwarded by the London and Cross Road Mails, with which one Penny must be paid on putting into the above mentioned Receiving Offices.

Letter Carriers will be dispatched every day (except Monday) with the Letters to and from Solihull, Knowle, Sutton Coldfield, Hales Owen, Dudley, West Bromwich, Tipton, Wednesbury, Darlaston, Willenhall, Bilstone, and to the intermediate and adjacent Places.

The collecting of the levy to pay the riot bill was a cause of great trouble to the authorities, and the following notice was issued :—

September 9, 1793.—The Constables of Birmingham having advanced upwards of a Thousand Pounds for the Inhabitants who have not paid their proportion of the present Levy towards defraying the Expence incurred upon the Hundred by the Riots, rather than subject the Parish to a considerable extra Expence, which otherwise would have been unavoidable, from the Commissioners appointed under the Act having given

Directions for an Action to be commenced against us, for not using the Means prescribed by it, to enforce Payment (which must eventually have been defended at the Expence of the Parish) and which we flatter ourselves, in consequence of the present Situation of Trade, every Inhabitant will approve of our deferring as long as possible; but as the utmost time allowed by the Act for the Sufferers to be paid will soon expire (and we cannot be expected to be in Advance for a longer Period) we hope none will defer paying their Assessments after this Notice; otherwise we shall at last be under the disagreeable Necessity of enforcing it, which will be attended with additional Expence and Inconvenience to them.

W. WALLIS.
W. BARRS.

Nor was this difficulty the only one. The people were opposed to its payment, and the collection of the levy produced a tumult, which is thus described, and which may be called THE LITTLE RIOT :—

October 28, 1793.—It is with much concern we state, that the peace of this town has been again disturbed by the tumultuous proceedings of a number of the populace. One Wood, of Lichfield-street, having refused to pay his proportion of the riot rate (on account of which the Constables, Messrs. Wallis and Barrs, very obligingly advanced, several weeks since, upwards of 1,100*l.* more than they had collected) it became absolutely necessary on Monday afternoon to distrain his goods for the same. This he resisted, and, threatening the lives of the officers, soon raised a mob, which in the evening collected in great numbers in St. Phillip's Churchyard, and in a most unwarrantable manner attacked the house, and broke the windows of Mr. Barrs, in Temple Row. At ten at night, the tumult and violence became so great, that Joseph Carles, Esq., with the police, and two troops of horse from the Barracks, found it necessary to attend to restore order; but the mob (with whom we are sorry to learn, many mixed from idle curiosity, and without considering the consequences), even after the riot act was read, shewing no disposition to desist from violence, the Magistate ordered several into custody, and instructed the military to disperse the others. One man who received a severe contusion on the head, and another with a broken arm, were taken to the General Hospital; and twenty-six were conveyed to the Dungeon; the military paraded the streets the greatest part of the night, during which every thing remained quiet; but early on Tuesday morning a rabble again assembled in the Church yard, in front of Mr. Barrs' house. Their number and riotous behaviour rendered necessary the further interference of the Magistrates, and the military, after the reading of the riot act, were again obliged to disperse them. In the course of this day, two troops of horse, which had been sent for from the neighbouring towns, arrived; and the persons who had been apprehended the preceding day, were examined before the Magistrates at the Public Office, who discharged some of them and remanded the rest.

In the afternoon a man who had vehemently threatened, at a public house, that the prison should, that evening, be pulled down, was immediately conveyed thither; and between nine and ten at night, the mob assembling round it for that purpose, and with a view of liberating their companions, were fired at by the gaoler as they were forcing the door. Two were severely wounded, the rest instantly dispersed, and the peace of the town has not since been disturbed. We hope the humanity of the magistrates, in this instance, will have proper weight with indiscreet abettors of such lawless proceedings, as

the consequence of the firing of the military would have been the loss of a number of lives, and probably of some persons who were present only from curiosity, as appears to have been the case on Tuesday night, when Richard Porter, who was wounded at the prison, declares that he was quietly returning from his work, and was shot just as he had reached the mob, and was enquiring what they had assembled for.

Wood, the cause of all this outrage, absconded, but was on Saturday apprehended by warrant, at Walsall, and the same evening brought to our prison. From a paper that Mr. Barrs has published, it appears that he was fully capable of paying the assessment, his real rent being 18*l.* 18*s.* per annum, and Mr. B. having only rated him at 14*l.* Of the persons taken into custody, Joseph Darby, who threatened to pull down the prison, still remains there; Davis has enlisted as a soldier; and the rest are discharged.

Of Wood, we have the following notice :—

November 4, 1793.—On Monday, Thomas Wood, the occasion of those disturbances which were mentioned in our last paper, was committed by J. Carles, Esq., to Warwick gaol, for assaulting Mr. Barrs, in the execution of his office as constable, and for promoting riots ;—at the same time, Joseph Darby, who had threatened to pull down the prison, was committed to the House of Correction, not being able to find sureties for his good behaviour.

In October, 1793, the hero of the London Popish Riots, Lord George Gordon, died in Newgate, of a malignant fever. The notice of his death says, "It is now six years since Lord George has been confined for a libel on the late Queen of France, and it is rather remarkable that the exit of that nobleman and the Queen should have happened much about the same period. His Lordship, during his confinement, was for many months a solitary prisoner at the State side of the gaol, and during his confinement demeaned himself with much propriety, ever contributing, in a liberal manner, to the distresses of the wretched culprits in Newgate. It is about five years since he became a convert to the Jewish religion, to the tenets of which he strictly adhered. He seemed extremely sincere in his conversion, and argued ingeniously with others, to become Proselytes to his opinions. This day the body of Lord George was delivered to his relations for interment."

Lord George Gordon was arrested in Birmingham, and is, therefore, to a certain extent, connected with its history. We quote the contemporary account of his arrest :—

Birmingham, December 10, 1787.—On Friday last, by virtue of a Judge's warrant, Lord George Gordon was apprehended in this town, for contempt of the Court of King's Bench, in not appearing upon the prosecution last Hilary Term, for publishing a libel, of which he was found guilty. Lord George was conveyed before Joseph Carles, Esq., who directed him to be conducted to town, attended by an officer from Bow-street, and the

keeper of the prison here. It was in the month of August last, that Lord George came to this town, and he has ever since, lodged at the house of a Jewess, in Dudley-street, to whom he was unknown when first he arrived. When the officers waited upon him he did not deny himself, but told them he was a Jew, and whatever might happen should continue one; and when he learnt that it was ordered he should be in London on Saturday evening, he expressed much concern thereat, as it would oblige him to travel on the Sabbath day of the religion he had embraced. Lord George, we understand, first became a Jew while he was in Holland, and ever since he has resided in this place, has been a very strict and rigid observer of every rite, ceremony, and custom of the Jews, except that of attending the Synagogue, where he feared to appear lest he should be discovered. His beard he had suffered to grow to a considerable length, which, together with his dress, contributed so much to disguise him, that he frequently went out in the daytime, though most of his hours were spent in his lodging-room, in reading, writing, and learning the Hebrew language."

A movement was made this year to supply our troops in Flanders with flannel shirts and waistcoats. Birmingham was at once active in this benevolent work. On November 4, this notice was published :—

We have the pleasure to state that a number of gentlemen of this town engaged, on Saturday last, to supply a quantity of flannel shirts and waistcoats for the use of our troops in Flanders during the winter campaign, and as they have no doubt but that there are hundreds in this place who will gladly follow so laudable an example (which has for its object not only the comfort, but the preservation of the lives of our brave defenders) we are desired to request the benevolent friends of their country immediately to prepare such quantities as they shall be inclined to furnish; and notice will be given in our next of the place fixed upon for receiving them, on Saturday, the 16th instant.

The gentlemen who frequent the Talbot Inn, in Digbeth, unacquainted with the resolution taken by the Gentlemen before mentioned, also liberally began a subscription on Saturday night, for the like patriotic and humane purpose.

Nov. 11.—*Warm Clothing for the Army in Flanders.*

The humane and patriotic scheme of supplying our brave defenders with warm clothing during the winter campaign, meets with uncommon success in this town. Already has the editor of the London paper, entitled *The Sun*, acknowledged the receipt of 200 flannel waistcoats from the gentlemen who frequent the Talbot Inn, in this place; great quantities more are making, and the overseers having been applied to, have set apart one of the rooms of the Public Office, in Dale End, where Mr. Charles Pye has generously offered to attend on Saturday next, to receive and pack up all the waistcoats that shall be sent in, and take down the names of the liberal donors of them.

A meeting was held, and the usual machinery put in action to raise funds :—

Birmingham, November 19, 1793.—At a meeting of the Inhabitants of this Town and Neighbourhood, held This Day, at the Hotel, agreeable to Advertisement in both the Birmingham Papers; The High Bailiff in the Chair:—

The following Resolutions were passed unanimously, viz :—

1. That a Subscription be immediately opened for procuring such extra Cloathing for our brave Soldiers, now under the Command of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, as

may be a means of alleviating the severities which they experience from the Season of the year, and the Climate of the Country.

2. That the Waistcoats, &c., already sent from this Town, be considered as Part of this general Subscription, and that the Persons and Societies who have subscribed thereto, be requested to put their names to this List, with the Number of Waistcoats, &c., or the Sum of money which each Person or Society has contributed.

3. That a Committee be appointed for the Conduct of this Business, and that they be desired to be as expeditious as possible in providing what appears to them most likely to answer the Purposes of this Subscription.

4. That the Committee consist of the High Bailiff, and the Gentlemen who signed the Requisition to him, together with such others as they shall judge proper, which will, nevertheless, be open to every Benefactor.

5. That W. Dickenson, Esq., be Treasurer to this Subscription.

6. That the Thanks of this Meeting be presented to Lady Jane Halliday, and Lady Malden, for their generous Benefactions, the former of 100, and the latter of 50 Waistcoats.

7. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the High Bailiff, for the Spirit and Zeal for the Public Good, which he has already manifested since his appointment to that Office, and particularly for having written to the Secretary of War, on the Day, and for having called this Meeting, and so ably presided in the Chair.

The following passage records a subject which must have had especial interest for those concerned :—

Nov. 25, 1793.—Friday was solemnly argued and determined, in the Court of King's Bench, the question, "Whether a person exercising the office of a Constable of Birmingham is liable to be condemned in costs upon an information in quo warranto, under the statute of the 9th of Queen Anne." The Court said, that a Constable was compelled to take upon him the office, under the pain of being indicted; and therefore it would be repugnant to Justice to make him pay costs for exercising an office that was forced upon him.

Birmingham suffered from a malicious report; but immediate steps were taken to destroy its effect :—

Birmingham, December 9th, 1793.—A report having last week unaccountably gone abroad, that a malignant fever prevailed in this town, and the High Bailiff having received a letter purporting that it was current in the country, very properly addressed the following note to the Physicians and Surgeons of the Hospital and Workhouse; whose certificate in reply must remove every apprehension that a report so shamefully propagated may have occasioned.

"Birmingham, Saturday, Two o'clock, Dec. 7.

Gentlemen,—In consequence of a report having been propagated of a very malignant Fever being now prevalent in this Place, I think it necessary to enquire of you whether there is any Foundation for the same, and to request your signature to contradict it if from your observations it appears to be ill-founded; as it will be highly proper to remove the Alarm which such Report has occasioned.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

THOMAS BARKER, High Bailiff.

To the Physicians and Surgeons of the Hospital and Workhouse."

"We, the Physicians and Surgeons to the Hospital, and Surgeons to the Workhouse, do certify, from our own Experience, that there is no just Foundation for the above Report, the Town being as healthy as it usually is at this Season of the Year.

T. Smith, E. Johnstone, R. Pearson,	Physicians to the Hospital.
G. Kennedy, Jer. Vaux, T. Tomlinson, G. Freer, (locum tenens)	Surgeons to the Hospital.
C. V. Webb, S. Hawkins,	Surgeons to the Poor House."

Again our extracts close another year with the records of charity on behalf of the suffering poor:—

December 16, 1793.—We have the pleasure to state that a most respectable meeting of the inhabitants of this place was held at the Hotel, on Friday last, when a liberal subscription was begun for the purpose of supplying the labouring poor with bread and potatoes, during the depth of winter. To so benevolent and, at this time, necessary a subscription, every individual who has the means, will, we doubt not, contribute.

December 30, 1793.—After the liberal Subscriptions that are daily made for the Relief of the Poor, and the several charitable Institutions, that do so much Honour to the opulent Inhabitants of this Town, it would be unnecessary and insulting to waste a Moment in attempting to awaken Sensations of Humanity, or to bring forward a scattered Ray to shew charity in a stronger light. But it cannot be deemed improper to recal your Attention to a Mode of Charity, that, from the avidity with which the Humane of other great Towns in this and other Countries have adopted it, from the Frugality of the Plan, and its numerous Advantages, the Friends of the indigent Sick must see with Surprise and Regret, still in a State of Suspense, unworthy of the Merits of such an Establishment, and of your well known zeal to relieve Distress. How far the united Evils of Poverty and Sickness may be assuaged by domestic Assistance, and how far this is a peculiar Charity, offering those Aids to whom the expedient Laws of other Charities refuse access, having been already laid before the Public,* it is only wanting to turn the Current of your Philanthropy into this useful Channel, and remove some Obstacles that may impede its Course. A few, not yet, perhaps, fully acquainted with the Nature and Utility of the Institution and the well-meant efforts of its Promoters, have seen in it some Opposition to the Hospital. This Misapphrension, however frivolous, ought to be done away, and it will immediately be corrected, by turning our Eyes to other Towns of less Extent and Opulence than this, where these sister Charities will be found to have Acted in Concert for the noble Purposes that they were intended, with uninterrupted Friendship. Beside, the Institutors of the Birmingham Dispensary have been Careful, that the Boundaries of the Charity should be so strongly marked, that no Trespass can happen. Fortunate would it be for Mankind, were the sum of human Misery so easily diminished that a few hundred Pounds laid out in Medicines for the Relief of the Poor at their own Houses, that so simple and so cheap a

* See Proposals for a Dispensary in Birmingham.

Method, could thin the Wards of the Hospital of the largest manufacturing Town in England. The Lazy and Clamorous are but too apt to beset the Gates of Hospitals and Poor Houses, whilst the modest and industrious Sufferer, that needs only Health to be an useful Member of Society, becomes a Victim to his own Delicacy.

That there is an Inability to support both Charities, or that this is an improper Time to encourage a new one, the Overflowing of your Generosity in a late Contribution, and the Increase of Wretchedness, abundantly contradict. May an Honourable Conclusion of the present War soon restore, in all their Plenitude, the Arts of Peace, and the grateful Mechanic will then repay with Industry the Protection extended to him in the Hour of Sickness and of Want.

Early in 1794, our Manufacturers and Workmen read this encouraging bit of Court news :—

January 27, 1794.—This Town has the greatest reason to rejoice in the turn fashion has taken, in imitation of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the Princesses, whose example upon this occasion will be the means of affording employment and support to hundreds of families. His Royal Highness now always wears, both on his morning and evening dress, engraved fancy white and yellow *metal buttons*. The unmanly shoe string will henceforth be thrown aside for the *buckle*. On the birthday, his Royal Highness and all his sisters appeared in the *Soho new invented Shoe-latchets*, and have since continued to wear this most elegant invention. Indeed no well dressed gentleman or lady now appears without these buttons and the ornament of the buckle. No small degree of gratitude, then, is surely due from the ingenious artist to the arbiters of taste and fashion, when they are so partiotic in their partonage.

The next two extracts will show the earnestness with which our forefathers entered into any kind of charitable work. From founding hospitals to supplying our troops in Flanders with flannel shirts and waistcoats—from raising funds to provide their own suffering poor with bread, to sending boots to the militia of other counties—at all times, and upon all occasions, the cry of suffering has ever called forth the active sympathy of this town. We have peculiar pleasure in producing the perpetual proofs of this exhaustless spirit of charity :—

February 24, 1794.—It is with pleasure that the Printer inserts the following Address, and announces that the subscription which it is its object to promote in this place has already begun.

To the Ladies of Birmingham and Warwickshire.

I have been much struck with a public-spirited scheme of Charity now carrying on with good success at Bath. It is a plan among a party of Ladies, for raising by subscription a sum of money sufficient to present a pair of shoes to the Militia of the County of Somerset. There is a warm hope that this considerate attention to our honest Militia, whose good conduct has been noticed from the Throne, will become general through the kingdom. This act of kindness is particularly will timed. The long and toilsome marches which the present exigence of affairs requires, makes an additional pair of shoes very acceptable ; their allowance being only one pair.

I earnestly wish to see the County of Warwick the first to follow so laudable an example; and have no doubt but the liberal and spirited Town of Birmingham will be the foremost to set such a subscription on foot. It is a charity which has every advantage to recommend it. It will add to the comfort of a laborious body of men, our neighbours and fellow citizens, whose attachment to their superiors will become still greater by this small act of attention to their ease:—The money is laid out on the spot in a useful article of trade, and derives a fresh value from furnishing a seasonable employment to the industrious manufacturer.

The Publisher of this will, no doubt, be happy to receive the subscriptions.

March 3rd, 1794.—A liberal subscription has been entered into by the gentlemen frequenting the Talbot Inn, Digbeth, for purchasing shoes for the privates of the Warwickshire Militia.

Another general fast was kept this year, and the town, as usual, observed it with all earnestness and decorum:—

March 3, 1794.—Friday last, being the day appointed by his Majesty to be observed as a General Fast, every proper attention to the same was shewn by all ranks of people in this town; and the places of worship were uncommonly crowded. At St. Mary's Chapel, after Divine Service, the sum of £20 was collected for the poor.

The second collection of the money for the late riots was announced in May:—

Thursday, May 1, 1794.—The Constables of the Birmingham Division of the Hundred of Hemlingford give this public Notice, that they have received the WARRANTS for the SECOND COLLECTION of the MONEY for the late Riots, and are there commanded to collect the whole money of the present collection in THIRTY DAYS from Saturday last. They therefore request the Payers will give them as little trouble as possible, as they are obliged to comply with the Direction of the Warrants under a very heavy Fine.

The King's birthday was again kept with the utmost loyalty:—

June 9, 1794.—We have received accounts from all quarters of the uncommon marks of loyalty and affection with which, on Wednesday, the Anniversary of our gracious Sovereign's Birthday was celebrated. In this Town the bells were rung throughout the whole day, oxen were roasted, and several barrels of ale were given to the populace by the Colonels Roberts and M'Donnel, each of whom are raising Regiments here. The King's own Dragoons from the Barracks were drawn up in New Street, and fired a *feu de joie;* and large parties dined at the principal Inns, and passed the day with the utmost cheerfulness and festivity.

On June 1st, Lord Howe obtained his famous victory over the French fleet. The news sent a thrill of joy throughout the country, for the year had been rather a disastrous one to our armies abroad. The French Revolution was approaching a crisis; and Robespierre was defeated and beheaded; but no changes in the governing powers at Paris checked the victorious career of the French arms. Birmingham celebrated Lord Howe's victory with the utmost enthusiasm.

June 16, 1794.—On Thursday, when the news arrived here of the glorious victory obtained over the French fleet by Earl Howe, an universal joy spread through the town. It happened on our Fair day, and the High Bailiff, as soon as the mail had brought the happy intelligence, began the customary procession with the other officers of the place, and being upon this occasion honoured by the attendance of Colonel M'Donnell, his regiment, music, and flags; Lieutenant Spooner, and the Warwickshire Fencible Corps (the Officers bearing their respective standards); and a number of his friends;—the brilliancy of the procession, the ringing of the bells, and firing of guns, united with the exulting exclamations of the innumerable voices in our crowded streets, exhibited a town in a complete state of triumphant rejoicing. A sumptuous entertainment was given by the High Bailiff, at Vauxhall, to which upwards of eighty of the military officers in town and principal inhabitants sat down. The day was spent with the utmost harmony and festivity, a variety of loyal toasts and songs were given, and at night the whole town was illuminated, transparencies and various devices were exhibited, and large quantities of fireworks were played off.

The respectful and kind attention which the Magistrates and Officers of this town discovered towards the people called Quakers, has, we are desired to say, been gratefully felt by them. They believe that war is to them unlawful, and they would, therefore, act inconsistently with their principles, which promote universal peace among men, were they to illuminate their houses in token of rejoicing for victories obtained by the effusion of blood. And on other occasions, when illuminations take place, they think that heartfelt gratitude to divine providence is best discovered by an amendment of life, and an increased disposition to alleviate the distresses of our fellow creatures. It is to be hoped, therefore, that their conduct will give no offence, especially as they believe they act agreeably to the simplicity of the Gospel Dispensation.

The police are now beginning to pay some attention to the preservation of order in the streets; and accordingly issue the following notice, which, we dare say, was for a short time attended to, and then allowed to repose in official indifference:—

The Officers of this Town give this public Notice, that they are come to a determined Resolution to apprehend all strolling Beggars, Ballad Singers, and other Vagrants found within this Parish; and, at the same time, request the Inhabitants will by no Means assist them:—those who are charitably disposed may, at this Time, find numerous Neighbours that they may privately assist, who are Parishioners, and real Objects.—Birmingham, May 28, 1794.

Here is a welcome bit of information. It seems scarcely credible that a custom of this kind could have existed at so recent a date:—

June 23, 1794.—Sir Charles Bunbury's Bill, by which the poor are exempted from personal labour in the repair of the highways, has received the Royal Assent.

The public were thus informed of the *third* collection of the

RIOT LEVY.

The Constables of the Birmingham Division of the Hundred of Hemlingford give this Public Notice, that they have received the Warrants for the third Collection of the Money

for the late RIOTS, and are there commanded to collect the whole of the present Collection in *Thirty Days from Saturday last;* they, therefore, request the Payers will give them as little Trouble as possible, as they are obliged to comply with the Directions of the Warrants under a very heavy Fine. Saturday, October 25, 1794.

At this time there was a great belief in the curative powers of oxygen air for almost all diseases. Blindness, deafness, and our country's especial pest, consumption, were to be overcome by this extraordinary panacea for all the ills that flesh is heir to. The first notice of its wonderful power appeared November 17, 1794 :—

We are happy to inform the public that two persons have been cured of blindness, caused by a Gutta Serena, and another of deafness, by the exhibition of *oxygene air*, under the direction of an eminent London Practitioner. One cancer of the breast, of long standing, has been apparently cured in the Bath Hospital, by *carbonic acid air;* and another cancerous patient has been so much benefitted, that great hopes of a perfect recovery are entertained. In other malignant ulcers equal success has been obtained. In a few cases of *confirmed* consumption, as far as could be judged, a cure has been effected, and in others great relief has been experienced. A discovery more interesting to suffering humanity never before claimed the attention of the public, and we hope and trust that the liberal support of the wealthier classes of the community, will enable the public spirited undertakers to pursue their discoveries.

This is followed by a proposal to found a

MEDICAL PNEUMATIC INSTITUTION.

November 17, 1794.—From various Trials lately made by several eminent Physicians, it appears that the Inspiration and external Application of Factitious Airs is likely to prove of great service in the Cure of several Disorders which have hitherto baffled the power of Medicine, particularly in Consumption, Cancer, and Palsy. But as it is necessary that their Efficacy and the best Mode of Application should be more fully ascertained than can be done in the course of private Practice, several respectable Gentlemen, both in and out of the Medical Profession, propose to form a *temporary* Institution, of the Nature of an Hospital, where a proper Apparatus may be established on a large Scale, where Rooms may entirely be filled with modified Air, and the necessary Medical Assistance be provided.

The Institution will be conducted with the utmost Openness, and Accounts of its Progress will be regularly published. The expence will be considerable, and can only be raised by public Contribution ; by which means it is hoped such sums will be obtained, as properly applied, will produce some decisive Result, so that *no second* Donation will be solicited. The Undertaking is subscribed to and patronised by Persons of the first Rank and Science ; among whom we need only mention the Names of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, of Dr. Black, Professor of Chemistry at Edinburgh ; Dr. Darwin, of Derby; Dr. Ewart, of Bath ; Dr. Ingenhouz, of London ; Messrs. Wedgwood, Father and Sons, of Etruria; Mr. Kirwan, of Dublin; Mr. S. More, Secretary to the Society of Arts, &c., &c.

Persons disposed to contribute, are requested to give in their Names and Subscriptions to Mr. Pearson, the Printer of this Paper, with whom are left Proposals more at large, drawn up by Dr. Beddon, of Bristol Hot-wells, the Author of several Publications on this Subject.

This year ends, like so many more, in efforts to relieve the distress of the poor. A Meeting was held, funds raised, and the town divided into districts, and two or more gentlemen appointed to attend to each district. I quote the list of these districts, and the names of the gentlemen who undertook the labour, as they afford an example of the method adopted in these cases. The Meeting was held on December 19, 1794, so that relief might be given before Christmas day:—

Mr. Charles Lloyd, and Mr. Thomas Bellamy—Edgbaston Street Quarter.
Mrr Thomas Colmore, and Mr. Weaman Hicks—Digbeth Quarter.
Mr. W. W. Mason, and Mr. Samuel Ryland—New Street Quarter.
Mr. John Tankard, and Mr. Thomas Cooper—Hill Street Quarter.
The High Bailiff, and Mr. Thomas Robinson—High Street Quarter.
Mr. William Walker, Mr. James Osborne, and Mr. Joseph Gibbs—St. Mary's Quarter
Mr. Walter Capper, Mr. James Woolley, and Mr. John Stanton—Newhall Street Quarter
Mr. John Ward, Mr. Thomas Smallwood, and Mr. Richard Warren—Dale End Quarter.
Rev. Mr. Young, Mr. Theodore Price, and Mr.—Timmins—St. Paul's Quarter.
Rev. Mr. Burn, Mr. Claud Johnson, and Mr. Samuel Tutin—Bull Street Quarter
Mr. Samuel Baker, Mr. John Guest, Mr. — Wilcox—Suffolk Street Quarter.
Rev. Mr. Darwall, Mr. Goddington, Mr. James Yates, Mr. Joseph Jukes, and Mr. James Cockle—Deritend and Bordesley.
Mr. Samuel Galton, Jun., Mr. S. Pemberton, Mr. Heaton, and Mr. Benjamin Sokes—Five Ways, &c.
Mr. Thomas Barker, Mr. William Smith, and Mr. John Startin, Jun.—Summer Hill.
Mr. Richard Ford, and Messrs. Baldwins—Hockley, &c.

In a week the subscription had reached the sum of £1,700. The distress was very great, so great, indeed, that the most extravagant reports as to the amount of our levy were believed. A neighbouring paper actually published a paragraph stating that the poor's rate in Birmingham was *twenty shillings* in the pound. The actual rate at this time being *sixpence.*

The opening of the new year was signalised by the presence of illustrious visitors:—

January 5, 1795.—On Tuesday evening, Earl Fitzwilliam, accompanied by his Countess, Lord Milton his son, and Lady Caroline Beauclerk, arrived at the Swan Inn, in this Town, where they passed the night, and the next morning his Lordship proceeded on his journey to Ireland, to assume the viceroyship of that Kingdom. The bells of St. Philip's Church began to ring at six o'clock and continued till the noble Peer and his Suite had left the town.

Mr. Owen Owens had established a Friendly Society, which attracted considerable attention. It was called the Society for the Decent Burial of Men, Women, and Children, and at a meeting held "at Hockley, near Birmingham," on January 13, 1795, the founder gave the following account of the origin of the institution :—

"For many years past, my own particular Business having caused me to traverse every Street and Alley of the great and populous Town of Birmingham, I could not avoid making Observations of the many Hardships to which the Poor are exposed, sometimes by Sickness, sometimes Want of Employment, or Want of Cloathing (especially Lying-in Women, who frequently I have noticed to be destitute of proper Nourishment and warm Covering, and other Necessaries), which many Times produced Distempers which ended in Death. This, though a Welcome Messenger to the suffering Patients, was a double Misfortune to their affectionate Relatives, first, by depriving them of the Objects of their Affections (for the social Affections flourish as strongly amongst the Poor as the Rich), and secondly, by stripping them of their All to procure decent Burials for the Dead, and that All has been frequently insufficient for the Purpose. I remember a poor Man had his Wife and two Children lying dead in his house at one Time; he was obliged to break up House-Keeping, and sell all his Furniture to get them interred. I have often seen others pack up all the Sunday Cloathing they had and carry it to the Pawn-broker; and others, having no Cloathing that a Pawn-broker would take in, I have seen wandering about the Town with a Petition, endeavouring to wring a Trifle from the cold hand of Charity, to enable them to pay the last Duty to their Husbands or Children; others, indeed, borrow from their Masters, and were under Stoppages every Week for a long Time on that Account. This, though the least bitter, was far from being a pleasant Mode either to Master or Servant. These Calamities took such Effect upon my Mind, that I have frequently joined my tears to those of the poor Sufferers, when I had no other Relief to give them, and my whole Attention was bent upon inventing some Method of putting an End to such Distresses. As I was meditating upon my Bed upon the Subject, it occurred to me that if I could establish a Society of a few Hundreds, who should subscribe One Penny a Week each, I could allow Three Guineas to bury every Member that should Die after having paid Twelve Weeks, and no further Payment should be required from his Relatives on that Account. Next Morning I waited on several of my Friends, and laid my Plan before them. It met their hearty Approbation, but not one of them would advance a Penny, nor spend an Hour in bringing it forward to be useful. Notwithstanding the Difficulties I had to wade through, I did not despair of being able to accomplish my Wishes, though alone and unassisted, saving by the help of that Deity who never withholds his Assistance from the good Acts of his Creatures. I spared neither Trouble or Expence, but walked many Weeks through every Part of the Town with Hand Bills, straining every nerve to accomplish what had become the first Wish of my Heart—the Relief of the Indigent and Distressed.

"When I had got about 600 Members I began to collect the Pence; then, instead of seeing an End to my Labour, I found a Street Uproar raised against me. The Plan was allowed to be good, but it was asserted that I was nothing but a *Catchpenny* who wanted to make a Purse, and run off with the Money without burying one of the Contributors. This Language, unfortunately for them, deceived many, and the Number of Members was

reduced from 600 to 209. Those people who knew me well would not hear anything against me, and it is further remarkable, that those who were loudest in Abuse against me, had, in less than two Months, one or two dead in their Houses, and came weeping to me to request they might be forgiven and re-admitted Members. In the Course of One Year and Nine Months, the Society has increased from 209 to 2361 Persons, and I have paid to different Families in Birmingham, during that Time, the Sum of 315*l.* for One Hundred Funerals, which, to them, has proved of the utmost Service, the Dead being decently interred, and the living Mourners supplied with some decent Cloathing in a Time of Distress; and I have the Pleasure of saying that the Sum of 77*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* still remains in the Bank, as a Fund to answer future Demands.

"I shall now close my Account with a Prayer, that the God of the Poor may bless us all, that, as we increase in Number, we may increase in Love towards each other, and to all the World, wronging no one of his own, nor coveting our Neighbour's Goods, and should a Judas arise amongst us to betray us, that we may discover him and frustrate evil Purposes, and that God will give me Resolution to persevere in a Work which has been found so beneficial to my poor Brethren."

There was another general fast on April 27, which was kept with "proper attention by all ranks of persons in this town."

The Benevolent Society was another of our charitable institutions. It was established for the relief of the indigent sick. This year the subscribers laid before the public an account of its objects and aims:—

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF THE INDIGENT SICK.

March 2, 1795.—The Subscribers to the Benevolent Society for the Relief of the Indigent Sick, in the Town of Birmingham, conceiving that their Plan is not generally known, beg Leave to solicit the Attention of the Public to the State and Design of this Institution. They undertake not to support a Set of Pensioners, but their principal Aim is to administer seasonable Assistance in Cases of Violent Sickness, or other Extreme Calamity, whereby many families are involved in great temporary Difficulties; in such Cases it seems desirable that some immediate Help should be administered, not only as it may tend to comfort the Dying, but also to strengthen the Weak, and be the means in a short Time of restoring them to their former Occupations.

They have also a further End in View; the Stewards who are appointed to carry this Relief to the Houses of the Afflicted, endeavour, by Serious Advice, to direct their attention to their spiritual and eternal Concerns.

The Necessity and Utility of this Institution have already appeared in an important Light to those who have had the Opportunity of observing its Progress, and of marking its salutary Effects.

The Benevolent Fund has, till within the last Year, been supported by small monthly Contributions (from One Shilling to Two Shillings and Sixpence), and these confined to a very few persons. By an Increase of Subscribers within that Period, the monthly Subscription has been considerably advanced; this, together with the Sums collected on the two last Fast Days, have enabled the Stewards to extend Relief through a much wider Circle of Misery than has before been attempted. Still the Number of Indigent Sick is found to increase, and their Distresses become daily more pressing. This has induced

the present Subscribers to make the Case public, in the hope that a Plan of Relief so useful, and at the same Time so easy and familiar in its Execution, will not fail to recommend itself to the general Approbation and Patronage of their Townsmen.

The Monies received are vested in the Hands of a respectable Person, who acts as Treasurer, and Visitors are chosen Monthly, who, on receiving proper Recommendations from the Subscribers, distribute the necessary Relief in the Manner before mentioned. The Accounts of Monies so received and distributed are regularly kept and exhibited for the Inspection of the Subscribers, at public Meetings regularly held for that Purpose, at St. Mary's Vestry, on the first Thursday after each Quarter Day, at seven o'clock in the Evening.

Number of Cases relieved within the last Year—575.

Subscriptions are received by the Wardens of St. Mary's, of whom every necessary Information may be obtained.

The following extract gives us a glance of one of the evils of a war time :—

March 16th, 1795.—On Monday last great confusion and some alarm was created in this town, in consequence of a party of the 118th, or Fingal Regiment, which had marched in from Ireland on the preceding Saturday, refusing to continue their route until they had been paid all their bounty money, which they alleged they had not received. Being encouraged by many among the populace to continue in their demands, and several of them being much intoxicated, they forced themselves into their officers' room at the Swan Hotel, and treated them in a very rude and threatening manner. Our Magistrates tried in vain to appease them, and as a large mob began to collect, and add to the tumult, they were obliged to request Colonel Callow to bring the Third Dragoons from the Barracks, to preserve the peace, which they effectually did. A note was then given to all the men by their Lieutenant-Colonel (Montgomery) promising, upon their arrival at head quarters, payment of all the money due to them, and signed also by our Magistrates, who engaged to send immediately to the War Office, and see that every man in the regiment had his due. This satisfied most of them; there were some, however, who rejected the notes, and continued in a very mutinous state all the day; but the Magistrates having directed the Constables and their Servants to go at midnight to all the public houses where the men were billetted, and get possession of their arms (which they easily did, assisted by an officer and a party of the dragoons), and every publican being forbidden to give them spirits, or any of the liquor shops to be opened in the morning, Colonel Montgomery was at length enabled on Tuesday to march out with the greatest part of the corps, and the others gradually followed, or were taken by the officers who stayed here to collect them. The Magistrates, we understand, have since received two letters from the Secretary at War; who, in the first, writes that "orders are sent to the Head Quarters, to prevent any difficulty or delay in executing what the Magistrates have engaged for, and a General Officer will be immediately sent, by his Royal Highness the Duke of York, to enforce those orders. And, in a second letter, the Right Hon. Secretary informs the Magistrates, that "Lieutenant-General Forbes is gone to redress grievances, and, if possible, to prevent such causes of alarm for the future."

An act had been passed by Parliament for raising a certain number of men in the several counties of England for the service of the Navy.

The general Session of the Peace held at Warwick on March 23, had allotted forty-four men as the number to be raised by Birmingham. A meeting of the inhabitants was held on March 31, at which "it was determined, that a Levy, at the rate of six-pence in the pound, should be immediately made, to defray the expenses of raising the forty-four men for the navy, the quota for this parish." The crimps were, as usual on such occasions, busy in the pursuit of their nefarious trade; and the magistrates issued the following notice :—

A CAUTION.

To the Birmingham Volunteers for the Navy.

April 13, 1795.—The Magistrates acting for this Town and Neighbourhood, having been informed that several Crimp Sergeants, and others, have engaged Men for Manning his Majesty's Navy, without any Authority for that Purpose, as no Sergeant can have any such Authority, and it being very injurious to the Service to permit any such illegal Practices, all Persons so engaged are hereby acquainted that, upon Application to any of the Magistrates, they will be immediately discharged from such Engagements, and be at full Liberty to enter into the Service with the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor, who are the only Persons Authorized to engage Men, and to whom all such as are willing to go, are recommended to apply.

The Magistrates, moreover, wish to be informed of the Names of all such Sergeants as have illegally engaged Men, that they may send their Names to the War Office, and have them properly punished.

The following extract shows how the vanity of the people was worked upon to induce them to volunteer :—

April 20, 1795.—The patriotic spirit which has ever been evinced by the inhabitants of this place to oppose the enemies of their country, will, we are persuaded, at the present moment, when Britannia calls for the best energies of all her Sons, be more ardent than ever; and we assure ourselves, the Town quota of Men for the Service of the Navy will soon be raised. Eighteen gallant fellows were attested on Saturday, and numbers of respectable gentlemen, we understand, purpose this week to accompany the Church-Wardens and Officers of the Town through the principal streets (as the chief inhabitants of Liverpool, Leeds, and Sheffield did at their respective places,) and to give every possible encouragement to those who may be desirous of the glorious appellation of Defenders of their country.

Here is another scene characteristic of the time :—

April 27, 1795.—On Thursday the High Bailiff, Parish Officers, and many of the principal Inhabitants, paraded the streets of this town with music and flags, to receive and encourage those brave men that might wish to become defenders of their country on board the Royal Navy, and volunteers upon this occasion have come forward in such numbers, that on Saturday only eight men were wanted to compleat the town quota, and which, from the patriotic spirit now abroad, we doubt not will immediately be found.

On May 4 we read: "This Town's quota of Seamen for Manning the Navy is now compleated, and all the men have been enrolled.

The distress continued to increase, and the sufferings of the poor were something terrible. Wheat was scarce, and almost at famine prices. The winter had been severe, and it closed by rapid thaws, which produced fearful floods. In spite of this distress, however, the Parliament voted an immense sum of money to pay the debts of the Prince of Wales, and made a liberal settlement for his marriage. But for the charity of the rich and the tolerably well-to-do, the issues would have been much more terrible than they were, for the discontent of the people was becoming fierce and clamorous. In Birmingham, as elsewhere, they resorted to violence, and in June of this year occurred that outbreak which we may very properly call the "Scarcity Riots."

June 29th, 1795.—It is with great concern we state that a misguided populace, too prone to hearken to the suggestions of the designing and evil-minded, has again broken in upon the peace of society, and committed the most culpable acts of violence and outrage. The corn mill and bakehouse of Mr. Pickard, at the bottom of Snow Hill, supplies a considerable number of the inhabitants of this town with flour and bread. The great scarcity of grain which is experienced throughout Europe (but in no country so little as our own), has considerably advanced its price, and of course neither the same quantity of flour, nor the same weight of bread, can be afforded for the like money, as in more abundant times. A few days ago a poor woman, complaining to the maid servant of Mr. Pickard that the loaf she purchased was less than usual, was answered by the maid, that she was sorry for it; but that wheat was so dear that it could not now be afforded of a larger size at the customary price; to which she added a just remark, that we surely ought to be contented here, and not complain, as our condition was so much better than in some other countries; for she understood from the papers the scarcity was so great in France, that the common people there were reduced to the necessity of eating grains. The malicious, it seems, soon perverted and fixed the expression on her master, and it was quickly rumoured that Mr. Pickard had said, he would make the poor eat grains in their bread, with the additional calumny, that he had buried under his mill a large quantity of corn. False and improbable as were such reports, they too successfully answered the ends of their vile fabricators, and, irritated by them, a mob (principally composed of women) assembled between one and two o'clock on Monday afternoon, round the mill, and began to break the window of it. Two of our worthy and active magistrates (W. Villers, and W. Hicks, Esqrs.), who happened to be then in town, hastened to the spot; but it was to no purpose that they addressed the deluded multitude on the unlawfulness and impolicy of their proceedings. A rabble, urged on by furious women, made their way into a part of the premises, and the persons of the Magistrates were endangered by the stones and brick-ends which were thrown in every direction. It became, therefore, necessary to adopt the most vigorous measures, and the King's own regiment of Dragoons were sent for from the Barracks. It happened that the men were at this hour watering

their horses out of the town; they were, however, with the utmost expedition collected by Colonel Callow, who appeared at the head of a troop in time to save the mill from destruction; but not before the mob had broken into the counting-house, and destroyed many of Mr. Pickard's books of account. In a few minutes after the arrival of the Dragoons, also appeared, headed by Captain Arden, Mr. Legge's Troop of Warwickshire Yeomanry Cavalry, whom (being at exercise a few miles from the town) Captain Arden, upon receiving intimation of the disturbance, immediately brought to our assistance.

The riot act was now read. The military speedily cleared the premises of the rioters, and parading through the adjoining streets, prevented further tumult during the day. As night came on, the Magistrates considering peace was sufficiently restored, and that the troops on horseback served only to draw crowds of idle people to look at them, directed that twenty of the Dragoons should be dismounted, and sent into the mill with the Peace Officers; and that the others, with the Yeomanry, should retire to the Barracks, there to wait in readiness for further orders. Not long, however, after the disappearance of the soldiers, another attack was made. The troops within the mill came out, and seized some of the leading rioters; and the Constables then ordered them to load their pieces before the mob, at the same time telling the people, that if the party that was going to convey those they had apprehended to the dungeon were attacked, they had orders to fire. Notwithstanding these precautions, the escort had not proceeded a hundred yards with their prisoners, before a rescue was attempted. The mob beat, pelted, and pressed upon the soldiers on every side; it was in vain that, by slightly wounding some with their bayonets, they endeavoured to keep them off, and that three of them discharged their pieces over the people's heads. This, instead of intimidating, seemed only to increase their violence; and at length, so furious was the attack, that to preserve his own life, and in obedience to the orders he had received from the peace officers, one of the Dragoons fired upon his assailants. A young man of the name of Allen instantly fell dead, and the ball, which passed through his heart and body, lodged deep in the chest of another (Henry Mason), who, after lingering alive until Saturday morning, expired in our Hospital. Upon these sacrifices to the offended laws of our country, the mob instantly dispersed in every direction; nor has the peace of the town been since interrupted; though we are sorry to say, some wicked incendiary, with a view of renewing the tumult, has been dropping in the streets, at midnight, written papers of the most criminal and inflammatory nature; and for the discovery of the author of which, the magistrates and other gentlemen have offered a reward of one hundred guineas.

Mr. Brooke, the Coroner, has held an inquest upon the body of the dead men, and the Jury have returned their verdict *justifiable homicide*. Two women and a man, Margaret Bowlker, Mary Mullins, and George Hattory, sworn to as being most active in the riot, are fully committed by the magistrates to Warwick goal, to take their trials for the offence, of which, if they are convicted, the punishment of the law is *death*. Let then those guilty spirits who, by false aspersions, have been exciting public animosity against an individual, reflect upon all the unhappy consequences of their malignant designs, and consider how much they have to answer for. And may the terrible example that has been made, and the punishments that will ensue, be a lesson to all, never to be forgotten, that the disturber of public peace, and the destroyer of private property, cannot escape with impunity.

Some apprehensions of a riot being entertained last week, by the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of Dudley, and at Bromsgrove, detachments of the Dragoons were sent from our Barracks to each of those places, who effectually prevented any breach of the peace.

REASONS FOR NOT RIOTING.

Addressed to every poor Man in the Kingdom.

1stly. Because rioting (to say the best of it) is so much lost time to a working man; who, when provisions are almost double their usual price, should be doubly diligent in his calling, to provide for the wants of his family.

2ndly. Because rioting prevents farmers from bringing corn into a neighbourhood where the people are disposed to riot, fearing it should be unjustly seized, and taken from them. This being also the case with millers, butchers, and bakers, provisions of all sorts are rendered more scarce, and, of course, more dear.

3rdly. Because, when a riot is expected, a number of soldiers are sure to be drawn to the place and neighbourhood; and every soldier must be supplied with food. Thus the number of mouths is multiplied, where, before, there were too many for the stock of provisions.

4thly. Because the war abroad, to which, in some measure, the scarcity is owing, is sure to be prolonged by rioting at home; our enemies being encouraged by it not to make peace with us but upon their own terms. And, because it is, morever, disgraceful to the character of Englishmen, not to bear with fortitude those hardships which, at such a time, press upon their country; hardships which, by the blessing of God, will soon be removed by a plentiful harvest which we have in prospect.

Lastly. Because, Riots being attended with "confusion and every evil work," a rioter is punished with death by the laws of his country; which laws will certainly be put in execution more rigorously than they have been, as examples are certainly more necessary.

Again the benevolence of the well-to-do inhabitants was displayed, and proved almost equal to the emergency. A few more extracts from our contemporary authority will afford us a picture of those fearful times. On July 10 we read this bit of good news :—

As the Bacon is arrived, the Tickets for it will be given out in the proportion of Four Tickets for each Guinea subscribed; and the Bacon will be delivered at a House (late the Indian Queen) in Snow Hill, on Friday and Saturday next.

This is followed by a bit of good advice :—

July 13th, 1795.—At the present period we cannot but earnestly recommend to the masters and mistresses of all families, to have their bread made of the *whole* flour of the wheat; as such bread will be found equally wholesome and palatable as that made of the finest flour, and be a material saving in consumption.

On the same day we have this report of the benevolent activity of the town :—

It is with pleasure we announce that a most liberal subscription is already begun in this town for the purpose of bringing to market a more ample supply of wheat and flour; and, we doubt not that every individual who has the means, will aid a subscription so benevolent and necessary. The most efficacious methods of carrying into execution the purposes of this Subscription, have already been adopted by the gentlemen appointed as a Select Committee upon this occasion.

A sensible correspondent published this letter on the prevailing topic of the day :—

July 13th, 1795.—To the Printer.—Sir,—Though little attention is in general paid to newspaper correspondence, I am not without hopes that the particular circumstances of the present period may authorise an attempt to represent the difficulties of the day in a less formidable light than they may appear in to those who have not sufficiently considered the subject. Such an attempt cannot be unseasonable, at a time when every man's own conscience must remind him, that the agents of mischief and revolution are active in the promotion of their iniquitous purposes among the lower orders of Society, and are ever busy in fanning the smallest sparks of discontent into the open flames of riot and confusion.

The words Scarcity and Famine are so alarming in their sound, and so dreadful in their consequences, that they are most efficacious arguments in the mouth of those who wish to seduce the unwary; and it is therefore necessary to caution every rank against giving implicit credit to the magnified evils of false representation, or joining in their complaint, before we have examined into the truth of their assertions. All good and evil is to be estimated by comparison; and if we find, on enquiry, that our present distresses are not only temporary, but sure to be of short duration; that they are in common with every nation in Europe, and felt in infinitely less degree in our own island than in any neighbouring kingdom, we ought not to repine at temporary inconvenience, or murmur at the deficiency of a single article, when Providence has furnished so many substitutes; and we are consequently strangers to *real want*, from the various stores of vegetation with which she has now so amply supplied us. In times of plenty we are all so inconsiderately profuse, that in these times of scarcity we know not how to conform to restriction in our habits, or to adopt such regulations as would make us little sensible to the temporary diminution of any single article of consumption. As men, we should bear with resolution, and as Christians, with cheerfulness and submission, the transient evils of the day; we should consider how much we can do for our own relief, by bringing certain portions of animal and vegetable food in aid of our remaining stock of wheat, which, if properly used and economised, will, I doubt not, be found sufficient for our subsistence, till the arrival of harvest, when nature holds out the most flattering promise of returning plenty in every species of grain, and every article of life.

On July 1, Mr. M'Cready gave a performance at the Theatre, for the benefit of the poor, which produced £161 8s. It was determined that the best mode of applying this money would be in purchasing wheat, and selling it to the poor at prime cost, free of carriage. The Government expressed its approval of the methods adopted in this town to relieve the distress. On July 20, a letter from the Secretary of State was published :—

It is with pleasure we lay before our readers the following letter, from his Grace the Duke of Portland, Secretary of State, to Heneage Legge, Esq., of Aston Hall, commending the very liberal subscriptions entered into in this town, and the measures adopted by the Select Committee, for procuring for our market a more ample supply of wheat, flour, and other provisions :—

Whitehall, 13th July, 1795.

Sir,—Mr. King having communicated to me the letter which he received from you on the 9th inst., relative to the measures adopted at Birmingham, for the supply of that town and neighbourhood, during the present scarcity; I am desirous to express to you my satisfaction at the prudence and discretion which has been shewn in the application of the liberal subscription which has been made there.

It is to the exertions and liberality of gentlemen in general, that Government must look in the present moment of distress, for the most effectual relief that can be afforded to the country at large.

The endeavours of his Majesty's Ministers will not be wanting to obtain such supplies as it is possible to procure.

I beg leave to acquaint you, for the information of the town of Birmingham, that since Mr. King's letter to you of the 3rd instant, an additional quantity of two thousand quarters of wheat has been sent to the Port of Liverpool, by order of the Privy Council, and whenever their Lordships are enabled to send a further supply, I will not fail to acquaint you with it.

I am, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

H. Legge, Esq. PORTLAND.

On the same day the plan of the Committee was published :—

The Committee appointed for the Promotion of such Measures as might be thought most likely to secure a regular Supply of Corn to the Market of this Town, until the Return of Harvest shall render their further Exertions unnecessary, have taken every Step that appears most advisable to them for the Accomplishment of that Purpose, and flatter themselves that their Endeavours will not be wholly ineffectual, though the Scarcity is so general, and Applications so numerous, at the different Sea-Ports, to which Quantities of Corn have been consigned by Government for the Relief of the neighbouring Counties, that it is very difficult to procure any material Share of it.

The Inhabitants of the Town may be assured, that the Committee will not relax in their Endeavours to discharge the Duties of their Trust, and beg Leave earnestly to recommend to all Ranks of People an Adoption of the Plan proposed by his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, for using only that very wholesome Bread, which shall be made from Flour of the whole Product of the Grain without Division, the broad Bran only excepted. The Committee pledge themselves to consume no other, when they can procure it, nor to suffer any other to be consumed in their Families, as long as the present Scarcity exists; and some of the most respectable Millers in the Town and Neighbourhood having promised to grind no other, unless particularly bespoke, it is hoped that all in the same Line of Business will follow their laudable Example for the Relief of the Poor and Promotion of the Public Good.

It is further hoped, that the Consumption of Bread may be diminished by the free use of Vegetables, which are now in the greatest plenty and perfection. And in order more effectually to accomplish this desirable Purpose, as well as to afford immediate Relief to the industrious Poor, the Committee, who have turned every Idea in their Minds on this Subject, and are well informed that their is a great Abundance of live Stock in the Kingdom, judge it necessary to recommend that a Moiety of the Money subscribed for defraying the Expenses of purchasing Wheat, be appropriated to the Purpose of Supplying the Poor with Meat at One Penny per Pound under the Market Price, which will enable

them to buy that useful Article at from Two-pence to Four-pence per lb., they therefore desire a General Meeting of the Inhabitants of this Town, at the Hotel, in Temple Row, on Wednesday next, at Eleven o'clock in the Morning, when the Plan will be laid before them, and their determination taken thereupon.

July 18th, 1795. W. VILLERS, Chairman.

On July 27 this paragraph was published :—

We are happy to inform our readers that a considerable quantity of the Indian corn, purchased by the Select Committee for procuring a more ample supply of provisions for our market, has already reached this place, and proper persons are appointed to retail the flour of it. The use of this flour is particularly recommended in the making of puddings.

On the same day a more detailed report of the labours of the committee, and of the success of those labours, appeared :—

July 27th, 1795.—BENEVOLENT SUBSCRIPTIONS—At a General Meeting, held at the Hotel, on Wednesday, the 22nd of July, 1795, pursuant to public Advertisement; W. VILLERS in the Chair;

The Chairman stated to the Meeting, that the Committee have applied to the Ports of Bristol, Liverpool, and Hull, for a supply of Corn, that they have actually purchased upwards of 3,000 Bushels of Indian Corn, Part of which is arrived, and will be delivered to Millers to be ground; that they hope also to obtain Wheat from more than one of the Ports, as soon as the Vessels which are sent by Government shall arrive there; that they have certain Information that the principal Supply for this Town hitherto had been from Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, and other neighbouring Counties, and that they have applied to those Counties through the regular Channels of the Trade, from whence they have no Doubt of receiving a Supply as soon as they can have it protected on its Way, for which End such Representations have been made to Government as they flatter themselves will be attended with success. They hope, therefore, that there will be no absolute Want of Bread; but as there is an undoubted Scarcity of Grain, they must advise that all Persons of every Class will make use of no other Flour than such as is made from the whole Produce of Wheat, the broad Bran excepted; that every substitute possible should be made for Wheat and Flour, and that one Moiety of the Subscriptions be appointed to the Selling of Meat to such Persons as stand in Need of Assistance, at One Penny per Pound under Market Price, in the following Manner, viz.:

That every Subscriber of One Guinea, have delivered to him Weekly for four Weeks, ten Tickets, each Ticket to entitle any Butcher to whom it shall be paid, to 3d. towards the payment of 3 lbs. of Meat, purchased by the Person who shall pay it to such Butcher. And as it may be a great Relief to some poor Families to have the Money arising from the Theatrical Performances distributed in some Article of Food, the Committee, who have purchased about 3000 lbs. Weight of Bacon, propose that every Subscriber of a Guinea shall have delivered to him two tickets each for 1 lb. of that Bacon, to be given to such poor Person as the Subscriber shall see fit. That the gentlemen who have kindly undertaken to solicit Subscriptions, be earnestly requested to be immediate and urgent in their Applications.

It Was Then Unanimously Resolved, That this Meeting do approve of the Plan laid before them this Day by the Select Committee.

That the Select Committee are requested to continue their exertions, in forwarding the Plan now read to the Meeting.

That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman and Select Committee, for their judicious Exertions.

W. VILLERS, Chairman.

The workhouse authorities this year began a sensible method of dealing. On August 3, they issued the following notice :—

The Committee of Guardians appointed for the internal Management of the Workhouse, give this public Notice, that in future they purpose purchasing the undermentioned Articles, by Public Advertisement, for Ready Money only. Those Tradesmen who wish to contract for the present Month, are desired to address their Proposals, with Samples of such Articles as will admit of it, to the Committee at the Vestry Room, on Tuesday next, the 4th instant, by Ten o'clock in the Morning.

Flour	Cheese	Shoes and
Meat	Malt	Groceries.

A pamphlet of advice was published with the following title :—

Recommended to Heads of Families, Bakers, &c.

August 10, 1795.—On Thursday next will be published, and may be had of the Printers of this Paper, Price One Shilling, Some Information Respecting the Use of Indian Corn; Collected from the Papers of Mr. Winthorp and Mr. Howard, with Observations from Mr. Parmentier, on the Use of Potatoes in Bread; and Mr. Dossie's Directions for the making of Bread in Private Families.

The committee held another meeting, at which the following business was transacted :—

Benevolent Subscriptions.

Birmingham Hotel, August 4th, 1795.—At a Town's Meeting in Consequence of Public Advertisement in both the Birmingham Newspapers;* Matthew Boulton, Esq., in the Chair;

"The Committee appointed for the Promotion of such Measures as might be thought most likely to secure a Regular Supply of Corn to the Market of this Town, until the Return of Harvest shall render their further Exertions unnecessary," reported to this Meeting, the Steps they had taken in this Business, the great Difficulties they had to encounter, and the pleasing prospect which, in the last three Days, had opened of a large Supply of Corn and Flour being brought to this Town, in the Regular Course of the Trade,

Resolved, That the following Advertisement be inserted in both the Birmingham Newspapers :—

"In Consequence of Measures directed by Government, there is good Reason to believe that no Obstruction will now be given to Corn and Flour in Passage from Oxfordshire and the neighbouring Counties to this Place, and therefore this public Notice is given to remove the Fears of all concerned in that Trade."

* Aris's Birmingham Gazette, and Swinney's Birmingham Chronicle.

Resolved, That the Chairman is desired to write a Letter to H. Legge, Esq., in the Name of the Town of Birmingham, expressing a most grateful Sense the Inhabitants have of the Obligations they are under to him, and praying for a Continuance of his Assistance and Support.

"When things are at their worst, they *sometimes* mend." This was one of the times at which they mend. The year's harvest proved an abundant one, and on August 24 the Editor informed his readers of the coming relief.

"It is," he said, "the opinion of persons the best informed, that when the present plentiful harvest is got in, what with the produce of our land, and the immense purchases of corn made in other countries for importation, there will be amassed in this kingdom an infinitely larger quantity of grain than ever yet known."

The poet had his epigram :—

September 7th, 1795.

On the Uncommon Rise and Fall in the Price of Bread.

Speculations much varied 'twixt *June* and *September*,
And sixpenny loaves were uncommonly small;
The oldest man living can never remember
So sudden a rise, and so rapid a fall.

The new plan of the overseers seems to have worked well, and they published the following satisfactory report :—

Birmingham Workhouse.

Vestry Room, September 7th, 1795.—The Overseers of the Poor have the Satisfaction to inform the Inhabitants of the Town, that from the Success of their late Advertisement, together with the judicious Regulations lately adopted by the two Committees of Guardians, the Number of Paupers in the Workhouse is now reduced to about two Thirds of what it was a month ago; and they hope that the Manufacturers and others of the Inhabitants who may be in Want of Hands, will continue to apply at the Workhouse, as besides those Paupers occasionally admitted into the House, they are frequently under the necessity of relieving Out Poor, who are destitute of Employment; and as Mr. Pearson and Mr. Swinney have obligingly offered to insert a Weekly Report in their respective Newspapers, the Inhabitants will have an opportunity of seeing that one of the principal causes for the late increase of the Levies, is the enormous Burthen of Out Poor, which, notwithstanding the united Efforts of the Overseers and Guardians to reduce the number, amounts at this time to 2,427 Cases, and may be calculated to be about Six Thousand Souls, as a great many of those Cases are Families, where there are three, four, or more Children.

The Overseers wish also to observe, that they are preparing a particular Statement of the Names, Places of Abode, and Weekly Pay, of all the Out Poor who are relieved by this Parish, which will be printed as soon as possible, and delivered to those of the Inhabitants who Pay Poor's Rates, by which Means they hope that some abuses may be detected by the Neighbours which may have escaped the Scrutiny of the Visiting

Guardians. Another desirable object which they have in contemplation is, to have a new general Assessment, which, although it may not be proper to introduce at present (on account of the number of voids and temporary reduced Rents), they hope may be brought about in the Course of another year.

P.S. It may not be improper to inform such of the Manufacturers as have lately employed People who boarded and lodged in the Workhouse, that on Account of that Privilege having, in several Instances been abused by the Paupers, it is now ordered that those who go out to Work shall leave the House entirely.

It is with pleasure, even now, that we read the following jubilant paragraph :—

September 21, 1795.—During the course of last week, the joyful sound of *Harvest Home* resounded at almost every farm in this and the neighbouring Counties; and we shall hope that all farmers will feel it their duty instantly to begin their threshing, and bring their wheat to the earliest markets, as a means of immediately putting an end to that great scarcity of the staff of life, which has been of late experienced.

The following extract reveals some rather curious ways of doing the parish business :—

BIRMINGHAM WORKHOUSE.

Vestry Room, September 18, 1795.

The Overseers and Guardians of the Poor having appointed a certain Number of Gentlemen as Auditors of the Parish Accounts, take the liberty of requesting those of the former Overseers, who have not already made up their Collecting Books, to deliver them, with the respective Balances due therefrom, into the Hands of the Vestry Clerk, at the Workhouse, on or before Friday next, the 25th Instant, as the Auditors cannot proceed to examine the Accounts till those Books are settled.

They wish also particularly to inform such of the former Overseers as have furnished the Workhouse with Goods of any kind, that their Accounts must be sent to the Clerk's Office to be examined and discharged, in the same regular way as those of other Tradesmen, and not deducted from the Levies which they may have collected, as it would be the cause of much Disorder in the general Statement, and would render the Parties liable to particular censure, when the Accounts came to be published for the Inspection of the Inhabitants at large.

And they hope that those who have not attended to repeated private Applications, will not fail to comply with their present Request, as in case of Neglect by any of the Parties, they shall feel themselves in Duty bound to adopt such compulsory Measures as are specified in the Act of Parliament made for that purpose.

The new Old Meeting House, to replace that destroyed by the riots, was built this year. Its completion was announced on September 28. Our readers will be inclined to question the appropriateness of the adjective "handsome" in the following paragraph :—

A very handsome meeting house has been erected by the Dissenters of this Town, in Old Meeting-street, on the site of the one burnt down during the riots of 1791; and it will be opened for the first time for public Worship on Sunday next.

In October, as the King was going in state to the House of Peers, to open Parliament, he was assailed by the suffering people calling for peace, and was fired at by some ruffians. On November 2, the people of Birmingham read with horror this account of an

ATTACK UPON THE KING.

It was business of no less importance than the circumstance of an attack made by a set of ruffians on the Sacred Person of the King, that took the noble Secretaries of State from the House of Peers. An attack which must have excited the most painful emotions in the Royal breast; and in that of every one of his Subjects, which retains a spark of loyalty or affection for their Sovereign or the Constitution.

It is said that "No violence was offered till after the Royal Carriage had passed through the Horse Guards, when in Parliament-street, opposite the Ordnance Office, a bullet or stone passed through the windows of the State Coach, and which, it is conjectured, was fired from an air gun. This circumstance, and the increased hootings and abominable exclamations of many of the mob, occasioned the utmost alarm to his Majesty and his attendants. The King entered the House of Peers with great emotion, and the first words he uttered were these to the Lord Chancellor, 'My Lord, I have been shot at.'"

The inhabitants of the town took immediate steps to express their "horror and abhorrence" of the attempt, and of their devoted loyalty to the throne. The King was fired at on October 29, and on the 31st the High Bailiff was thus requested to hold a public meeting on the subject :—

Birmingham, October 31st, 1795.

We, the undersigned, impressed with the sincerest Attachment to our Most Gracious Sovereign, having heard with Horror and Abhorrence the daring, outrageous, and treasonable Attempts that were offered to his Royal Person, in going and returning from Parliament on Thursday last, do hereby request you will fix the earliest Day in your Power to convene a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants, for the Purpose of addressing his Majesty upon so alarming an Occasion, and to express the most heartfelt Congratulations of a Loyal People, for the Protection afforded by Divine Providence to the best of Kings; and at so important a Crisis, animated by the daring Proceedings of seditious Meetings and Assemblies, to assure our Sovereign that his loyal Subjects of the Town and Neighbourhood of Birmingham are ever ready to stand forth in Support of their King, his Crown, the Laws, and glorious Constitution of their Country.

B. Spencer	W. Wallis Mason	Edward Palmer
W. Villers	Henry Clay	John Startin
W. Hicks	Wm. Dickenson	Wm. Hawkins
C. Curtis	M. Goodall	John Tankard

Spencer Madan	J. Brooke	Thomas Barker
Edward Carver	John Cope	R. Conquest

To Thomas Grundy, Esq.,

High Bailiff of the Town of Birmingham.

In consequence of the above Application, I appoint a Meeting of the Inhabitants of this Town and Neighbourhood, on Wednesday next, at Twelve o'clock, at the Hotel, in Temple Row, for the Purpose of addressing His Majesty, agreeably to the Purpose of the above Requisition.

THOMAS GRUNDY, High Bailiff.

The meeting was held, and the following is the report of its proceedings :—

Birmingham, November 9th, 1795.—On Wednesday one of the largest and most respectable meetings we ever witnessed in this town, was held at the Hotel, for the purpose of addressing his Majesty, in consequence of the late atrocious attack upon his Royal Person. The High Bailiff having taken the chair, and announced the object of the meeting, an address was moved by William Villers, Esq., and seconded by Matthew Boulton, Esq., which was unanimously approved and applauded. It will be presented to his Majesty by the Members for the County, on Wednesday next; and the purport of it is to assure our Gracious Sovereign that the Inhabitants of Birmingham and its neighbourhood received with deep concern the painful intelligence of the insult and danger to which he had been most cruelly and most undeservedly exposed; and they consider such atrocious conduct as a melancholy proof that no extent of private or of public worth can afford a full security against the excess of sedition and treason; but they trust the frenzy of a faction will not shake his Majesty's confidence in the love of his people, and that he will form no unfavourable inference to the general disgrace, from the outrages of lawless and abandoned individuals; miscreants unworthy the name of British subjects; disowned and detested by the nation at large. They assure his Majesty that their prayers are devoutly offered up for the long continuance of his just power and bright example upon the throne of these realms; they entreat him to believe and approve their effusions of gratitude for his late preservation, and their impatience for the detection of the criminal agents and abettors of the horrid design; and they conclude with a tender of property and life to defend his sacred Person and the Constitution against every enemy, whether open or secret, whether foreign or domestic.

On November 16, we read that "On Wednesday the Address from the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood, was presented to his Majesty by our worthy representative, Sir John Mordaunt, Bart., and most graciously received. Sir John was accompanied on this occasion by Sir Henry Gooch Calthorpe, Bart., and H. Legge, Esq., of Aston Hall."

We have in the next extract a protest against a practice which was only too common in the dipt button trade :—

Birmingham, November 4, 1795.—At a Meeting of the Commercial Committee of this Town, held at the Shakespere Tavern, on Wednesday, the 4th instant; JOHN STARTIN, Esq., President;

It was resolved,

I. That the conduct of Mr. James Aspinall, Messrs. Richard Hawkins and Sons, and such other Manufacturers as have refused to mark their dipt, or any other yellow Buttons that are not really and *bona fide* gilt, with the word, *Gilt*; or their Silvered, or any other white Buttons, Plated, merits our Approbation.

II. That we pledge ourselves one to the other, and to the Town in general, that we will neither, directly or indirectly, practise or encourage such conduct, which we should consider as disgraceful to ourselves, and injurious to the Credit and Reputation of our Town and Nation.

III. That we recommend to the different Manufacturers with whom we do business, to write on the List of Prices which accompany their Cards, the *real* Quality of the Article, upon such Cards, as well for their Credit, as for the Security of the Merchant or Factor who sends them out.

Welch, Startin, and Co.; Glover, Son, and Frey; Matthew Boulton, Esq; James Alex Bourgeois; Joseph Green, Esq.; Gurton & Brothers; Grundy, Russell, and Co.; Wm. Wallis Mason; Hadley Brothers; Bradley, Shipton, and Co.; Sobrot and Hughes; Benjamin Stokes.

In this month the town was visited by a violent hurricane, accompanied by the shock of an earthquake.

November 23rd, 1795.—On Wednesday morning a violent hurricane of wind blew in this town and neighbourhood, and tore from the roof of the house of Mr. Cope, in the High-Street, a large stack of chimnies, which fell in a mass without separating upon the laundry, destroyed it, and a still-house under it; threw down a brewhouse in St. George's Market, and did considerable damage to other adjoining buildings. Very fortunately, though Mr. Cope's people were at the time in different parts of the premises, and several persons were passing along the Street, no one received any injury.

EARTHQUAKE.

On the same night, a little before Eleven o'clock, a shock of an earthquake was very sensibly felt by most of the inhabitants of this town, and in all the adjoining counties, and occasioned considerable alarm. Those in bed felt themselves raised up in the same manner as if a person had been underneath them, and a shaking of the bedstead and of the other furniture in the room immediately ensued. Those who had not retired to their beds were disturbed by an indistinct rumbling noise, apparently proceeding from the cellar, which was followed by a rocking of the house. At Nottingham the shock was so severe that several stacks of chimnies were thrown down, and the dread occasioned by the awful circumstance was greatly increased by the hollow sound of the bells from the steeples. A table, round which a party of gentlemen were sitting, in the Potteries, we are informed, was thrown down, and all the glasses broken; and we have already received intelligence of this earthquake having been felt in a line of wide extent, from the borders of Yorkshire to Bristol; and it is not unlikely but further accounts may be given of its having been still more general.

Our neighbour, Lord Dudley, thus celebrated the "happy escape of the king":—

November 30th, 1795.—On Wednesday, in celebration of our gracious Sovereign's happy escape from the atrocious attack upon his person, a most magnificent display of fireworks was given by the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Dudley, at his seat of Himley, to a numerous assemblage of the neighbouring nobility and gentry, and many thousand other spectators. In the course of the evening a military band paraded the park, and at night the Songs of "God Save the King," "Rule Britannia," &c., were sung in an admirable Style by the celebrated Miss Abrahams, Mr. Chapness, &c. The fireworks were various and uncommonly beautiful, and the exhibition of them concluded with a grand piece, in the centre of which were the Royal Arms between the letters G. R., and above, which brilliantly sparkled, on words of artificial fire, the affectionate and loyal exclamation, "Thank Heaven! our King is Saved!"

The next two extracts refer to the measures taken to preserve honesty in the manufacture of dipt buttons :—

Shakespeare Tavern, Birmingham,

Wednesday, November 25th, 1795.

At a Meeting of the Merchants and Factors of this Town, held here this Day, in consequence of a public Advertisement, with a view to discountenance some Impositions practising in the Button Trade; a Set of Resolutions were framed and unanimously agreed to, which now lies at the Bar of this Tavern, for the additional Signatures of such other Merchants and Factors who, though not present at the said Meeting, may wish to concur in the Measures there adopted. Said Resolutions will remain for Signature until Wednesday next, at Three o'Clock.

Shakespeare Tavern, Birmingham,

Wednesday, November 25th, 1795.

At a Meeting of the Merchants and Factors of this Town, called by public Advertisement and held this Day, the following Resolutions were unanimously agreed to, and resolved to be inserted in Aris's Birmingham Gazette, and Swinney's Birmingham Chronicle of next Week.

I. That the Conduct of those Manufacturers who have refused to sign their dipt, or any other Yellow Buttons, that are not really and bona fide gilt, with the word Gilt; or their Silvered or any other white Buttons, that are not really and bona fide plated, with the word Plated, merits our entire approbation.

II. That we pledge ourselves one to the other, and to the Town in general, that we will neither directly nor indirectly practice or encourage such Deceptions as are above alluded to, considering them disgraceful to ourselves, and injurious to the Credit and Reputation of the Town and Nation.

III. That wishing for as full and complete a Concurrence of those engaged in the Trade of this Town as can be obtained for the Discouragement of such Imposition, we shall be happy to unite with the Manufacturers of the Articles in Questions, in any Measure which they may think the best adapted for the putting a Stop to such Proceedings.

December 14th, 1798.—We the undersigned Merchants, Factors, and Manufacturers, observing three Advertisements published in Aris's Birmingham Gazette of the 16th, 23rd,

and 30th ult., stating that Impositions had been practised in the Manufactory of Buttons, viz., that ungilt buttons have been marked with the Word Gilt, and that Silvered, or other white Buttons have been marked Plated, though not Plated, and that such Buttons have been really vended as Gilt and Plated; and that, in consequence thereof, certain Resolutions have been entered into by some Merchants and Factors, pledging themselves to discountenance such iniquitous Practices in future—

We therefore think it incumbent on us solemnly to declare, each separately for themselves, that we have neither Manufactured nor vended Buttons under such false Marks, nor under any other Deception, nor would we have done so at the Instance of any Description of Men whatever. And also that we are desirous to co-operate in any general Regulation and reciprocal Engagements, which shall be settled at a public Meeting of the Merchants, Factors, and Manufacturers, for the Purpose of putting an effectual stop, in this Neighbourhood, to such illicit Practices, and thereby to preserve a valuable and extensive Branch of our Trade from Disgrace and Ruin.

Those Merchants, Factors, and Manufacturers, who wish to join in this Advertisement are desired to send their names to the Printer, that the same may be inserted in some future Paper.

Another meeting was held on this important subject, and, contrary to all precedent, we have a report of the speech delivered by the chairman. Newspaper proprietors will hear with admiration and envy that, with one exception, it is the only example which we have yet had of a speech of the kind being published, except as an advertisement :—

December 28, 1795.—On Tuesday last, a meeting of the principal Merchants and Manufacturers of this Town was held at the Shakespeare Tavern, on the subject of certain deceptions that have been practised in the manufacturing of Buttons; M. Boulton, Esq., being solicited to take the chair, addressed the meeting in the following terms; and the Resolutions, which will be found in an Advertisement in this page, were afterwards entered into :—

"This meeting, Gentlemen, is called for the purpose of Taking into consideration the most effectual means of preventing, in future, the deceptions which have been practised in the manufacture of Buttons.

"The deceptions alluded to are marking the word Gilt upon buttons which are not gilt, and the word Plated upon such as are not plated.

"I will not expatiate upon the impolicy, the dishonour, and the immorality of the act itself, nor upon the inevitable consequences that must ensue—such as ruin to the trade, and disgrace to the name, of Birmingham.

"However, let us waive all reproaches and recriminations for what is past, but let those who have transgressed cease to do so, and let it be remembered that honesty is the best policy, and that fair dealing must in the end prove the most advantageous both to the town and to individuals.

"As I am an old button maker, allow me to advise my brethren to make excellence rather than cheapness their principle of rivalry; and pardon me if I advise the Merchant

to be satisfied with buying good commodities at a fair price, to lay aside the arts of reduction, and not to expect to buy his goods cheaper than any other man who has money in his hands.

"It perhaps may be difficult to distinguish the difference of shade in gilt buttons, between one penny per gross higher, or one penny per gross lower, and yet a repetition of such small abatements will soon bring back the ruinous trade of gilding without gold; for let the maker say what he will, the buyer may be assured that the reduction of quality will always keep pace with the reduction of price, and ultimately diminish the returns of the Merchant, and destroy the trade of the Manufacturer.

"The Legislatures of this and other countries have enacted many laws for protecting the reputation and qualities of their commodities and manufactures; such as Wrought Plate, Linen, and Woollen, Sheffield Cutlery, and Gold Lace Manufacture, which was so ruined by feeble Gilding, that the makers were obliged to apply to Parliament; and I fear the Reputation of Birmingham Buttons, and some other articles, will never be retrieved unless the quality is kept up, and protected also by an Act of Parliament. The gold wire-drawers are obliged by law to put per dwt. of fine gold upon every pound troy of silver, since which our gold lace has been equal to the French in colour and quality. The quality of the Swedish bar Iron is protected by laws, and various other instances may be found, the good effects of which incline me to think that an Act of Parliament will be the most effectual means of preventing, in future, the deceptions which have been practised in the manufacture of Buttons."

The following Resolutions were entered into:

1. Resolved, That the Practice of putting any false Mark upon Buttons, by which the Purchaser or Consumer may be deceived in the real Quality, is highly injurious to the Prosperity of that extensive Branch of our Trade, and ought to be immediately abolished.

2. That it appears to this Meeting, that it is improper that any Metal Buttons should be marked on the underside with any Letter, Word, or Device whatever, except such Buttons only as are really Gilt, or Plated. And that an Act of Parliament to inflict pecuniary punishments upon the Makers and Vendors of Buttons fraudulently marked, is the most efficacious Means of putting an entire Stop to that Practice.

3. That it be recommended, as the opinion of this Meeting, that an Application be made for an Act of Parliament, for the Purpose of protecting the Quality and Reputation of the Button Manufactory.

4. That in the mean Time, until an Act of Parliament is obtained, the Company present do mutually pledge themselves to each other, and to the Public, that they will neither make, sell, nor purchase Buttons marked with the words Gilt or Plated, unless the same be really and bona-fide either Gilt or Plated; Bills of Parcels shall henceforth express the real Quality of the Buttons so sold or offered to Sale.

5. That a Committee of Twenty-one be now chosen, seven of whom to constitute a Committee, and to meet every Tuesday and Friday, at Five o'clock in the Afternoon, at the Shakespeare Tavern, to arrange and digest the Business for the further Consideration and Determination of a future Public Meeting or Meetings.

6. That the said Committee do make known to the Manufacturers and Dealers in Buttons in London and Sheffield, or elsewhere, the Resolutions of the Meeting, and request their Concurrence and Support in carrying the same into effect.

7. That any Person wishing to communicate his Sentiments on the Subject, previous to the same coming again before a public Meeting, be desired to address himself, in Writing, to the Chairman of the Committee of the Button Trade, at the Shakespeare Tavern.

8. It being represented to the Meeting, that there are other Articles of Manufacture in this Town which require similar Regulations, and which may probably be comprehended under the same Act of Parliament;

Resolved, That all Communications relative thereto, be likewise addressed to the Chairman of the Committee, in Writing.

9. That this Meeting pledge themselves to defray the necessary Expenses of carrying these Resolutions into Effect, and to solicit the Concurrence of those who are absent.

10. That the following Gentlemen be appointed a Committee to attend to the Conduct of this Business, and that they be empowered to appoint a Secretary to assist them therein, viz., Matthew Boulton, Esq., Messrs. Wm. Smith, J. Bingham, John Startin, Sen., Joseph Moore, B. Stokes, Joseph Randell, William Walker, Theophilus Richards, James Aspinall, Humphrey Vale, Wm. Guest, William Hawkins, Harry Hunt, Benjamin Hughes, George Madely, William Anderton, William Dickenson, Charles Jennens, Alexander Aspinall, James Alston.

11. That these Resolutions be published in one of the London Papers, and in the Birmingham and Sheffield Papers.

12. That the unanimous Thanks of the Meeting be given to the Chairman.

MATTHEW BOULTON, Chairman.

The reports of these meetings show how careful the chief manufacturers were to preserve the integrity of their trades, and how deep an interest Matthew Boulton took in all questions affecting the honesty of his calling.

The Blue Coat School is one of our oldest and best charities. The education given to the children is sound and good, and they are taught those things which will be useful to them in after life. In 1796 a scheme was adopted which gave the pupils employment in the school. The committee thus laid the proposal before the public :—

EMPLOYMENT FOR CHILDREN.

April 11, 1796.—It having been suggested to the Committee of the Birmingham Charity School in St. Philip's Churchyard, that the Boys belonging to this School might be employed to the Advantage of the Community, the Benefit of the Charity, and for the desirable Tendency of training them to an early Habit of Industry: The Committee think it their duty to give this public Notice, that they are ready to receive Proposals from any Manufacturers in the Town or Neighbourhood, for Labour of the Children for a certain Number of Hours each Day, in such Employment as can conveniently be performed in the House, under their own Care, or their Superintendent's Direction, and will lay them before a General Meeting of the Subscribers for their Consideration and Consent.

Committee Room, Monday, April 4, 1796.

We have seen the trouble which the dishonest button manufacturers caused the trade. The evils were great and pressing, and an Act of Parliament was obtained to "regulate the making and vending of Metal Buttons, and to prevent the purchasers thereof from being deceived in the real quality of such buttons." Provisions were made by which these desirable objects could be obtained, and heavy penalties inflicted. "There is no doubt," says the chronicler of the event, "but it will be approved by every honest fair dealer, and particularly by the wearers or consumers of Metal Buttons; as the difference of price amounts but to a few pence per dozen between one set of buttons that are of so low a quality as to disgrace a good coat in a few weeks, and another set of buttons that are gilt to a standard required by the act. Moreover, when a tailor, or wearer, knows of a certainty that he is not likely to be deceived, and that he not only can buy buttons gilt to the standard quality, but that he can also buy them with double or treble the standard quantity of gold upon them, there is little doubt but that twist buttons will be again rivalled by pure untarnishable gold, and the reputation and fair profit of the manufacturers be restored."

When Leland visited Birmingham, the river Rea was crossed by a foot-bridge, in Deritend, and we have had to record several fatal accidents which occurred there, by people mistaking the bridge, or by falling from it into the water. According to Hutton, "in 1750, a wretched one was taken down," and a stone bridge consisting of five arches was erected. This the historian cannot praise. He says "the homely style, the steep ascent, and the circumscribed width, prevents encomium." This structure, however, sufficed for the wants of the inhabitants until 1788, when an Act of Parliament was obtained for rebuilding it. The following documents will give the reader a complete history of the undertaking, and of the difficulties under which the trustees had to labour.

DERITEND BRIDGE.

July 4, 1796.—The following Case respecting the Legality of compelling the Inhabitants to pay the Expence incurred in erecting Deritend Bridge, &c., has been submitted to Mr. Gibbs, to which his Answer is subjoined.

In the year 1788, the Act of Parliament, which accompanies this, was obtained for re-building the Bridge over the River Rea, &c., empowering Trustees to cause certain

THE "PROPPER CHAPPELL" OF DERITEND, BUILT IN 1375, REPAIRED IN 1677, TAKEN DOWN IN 1737

Tolls to be collected towards defraying the Expence. These Tolls were to continue for the Term of four Years (see Act. p. 15), and said Act (p. 19) further directs, That in Case the said Tolls shall not be sufficiently productive to discharge the Money borrowed for erecting the said Bridge, together with the Interest, "Then the said Trustees shall, and are hereby authorised and required, within three Months after the Expiration of the Term for which the said Tolls are herein before granted, to make an equal Pound Rate or Assessment upon all Persons who do or shall occupy any House or other Buildings or Lands within the Parish of Birmingham aforesaid." Now, the four Years, or Term for which the Tolls were authorised to be continued, expired on or about the 2nd of January, 1794, and from that Time no farther Tolls were demanded. The Tolls received never produced a Sum sufficient to discharge the Money borrowed, &c., and instead of assessing the Inhabitants of Birmingham, &c., within three Months next after the Tolls had ceased, pursuant to the special Directions of the Act, page 19, the Trustees remained totally inactive in this respect till the 18th of January, 1796, when an anonymous Advertisement appeared in a Birmingham Paper, stating that the Trustees were commanded by a Mandamus to proceed to make a Rate upon the Inhabitants of Birmingham, &c. The said Trustees met on Thursday, the 21st of January, 1796, and made an assessment on the Inhabitants of Birmingham, &c., and proceeded to collect, which instead of being within three Months, as specially directed by the Act, was more than two Years after the Tolls had ceased. You are requested to give your Opinion as speedily as possible whether or no, now, after having neglected to comply with the Letter of the Act, the Trustees can compel the Inhabitants of Birmingham, &c., to pay the Rate.

ANSWER.

"I am of Opinion that the Trustees cannot now make a legal Rate, nor, consequently, compel the Inhabitants to pay it.

"By delaying to make it beyond the three Months prescribed by the Act, they may cast the Burthen on a different Set of Persons from those on whom it would have fallen within the three Months, for which Reason I think the Act is compulsory in this Respect.

"V. GIBBS, Temple,

"Rex 5. King, E. T. 23., G. 3." "June 24th, 1796.

DERITEND BRIDGE.

July 11, 1796.—The Trustees appointed by an Act of Parliament for re-building Deritend Bridge, having observed a Publication in the last Birmingham Gazette, tending, as well to criminate the Conduct of the Trustees, as to raise an Opposition to the Payment of the Rate made for re-imbursing the Creditors the Money borrowed upon the Credit of the Tolls, think it incumbent on them to State shortly the following Facts for the Information of the Public :—

In the year 1788, an Act was passed for the Purpose of rebuilding the said Bridge, taking down certain Houses and Buildings, widening the Avenues to the said Bridge, altering the Course and sinking the Bed of the River, and doing several other Matters in the Act specified; and for defraying the Expences, the Trustees therein named were authorised and empowered to erect a Toll Gate, and to collect certain Tolls for four years; and to borrow and take up at Interest upon the Credit of the said Tolls any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding in the whole the sum of 3,000*l.*, to be re-paid, in Case of a

Deficiency in the Tolls, by a Rate upon the Inhabitants of the Parish of Birmingham, the Hamlet of Deritend, and Liberty of Bordesley; which Rate is directed to be made within three months after the Expiration of the Term for which the said Tolls were granted, in Manner in the said Act mentioned.

By a Calculation made previous to the passing of the Act, but which unfortunately proved erroneous, it was expected the Tolls would have been more Productive, but the Trustees had the mortification to find that the Amount during the four years of their Collection fell short at least 1000*l.* of the Sum at which they had been estimated. This deficiency, as also the Interest on the Money borrowed (which now Amounts to nearly 1000*l.*) was of Course to be provided for, and the Trustees desirous of raising a further Sum of Money by Tolls, rather than by an additional Rate, in the year 1791 again applied to Parliament for that Purpose, but unsuccessfully; the Bill after it had passed the House of Commons, having been negatived by the House of Lords, since which Event the Trustees have repeatedly endeavoured to remove the Prejudices of the Parties who opposed the Bill, but without Effect, and finding that a strenuous Opposition would take place if any Attempt were again made, they thought it prudent to decline any further Application to Parliament on that ground.

In the year 1794, the Tolls ceased to be collected. The Inhabitants of the Town cannot have forgotten the heavy Rate then under Collection for re-imbursing the Sufferers the Damages sustained by them in the late Riots; on which Account the Trustees thought it a very unseasonable Time to make the Rate in Question; but the Persons who had advanced the 3,000*l.* upon the Credit of the Tolls, some time afterwards becoming very urgent for the Repayment of their Money, it was necessary in Justice to them to proceed in making the Rate; however, as more than three months was expired since the Cessation of the Tolls, the Trustees previously took the Opinions of two eminent Counsel as to the Legality of the Measure, who both concurred in Sentiment, that the Words of the Act, (within three Months) which relate to the making of the Rate were directory only, and that a Rate then make would be good; however, they recommended the Opinion of the Court of King's Bench to be taken, upon an Application by the Creditors under the Act for a Mandamus to compel the Trustees to raise the Money due by Assessment, and such Application was in last Michaelmas Term made to that Court accordingly. In the Affidavits upon which the Application was grounded, it was particularly stated that the Time appointed for the making of the Rate was expired; the Court was therefore fully acquainted with that Fact, and in granting the Mandamus, hath, it is conceived, declared its Opinions of the Legality of the Measure. The Trustees therefore did not in the least expect that the Rate thus sanctioned could have met with any Opposition; nor do they apprehend the Circumstance of the Burthen or Hardship, which it is suggested by the Delay in making the Rate may be cast on a different Set of Persons from those on whom it would have fallen within the three months, can have much, if any Weight, when it is considered that the few Individuals whom it may affect in this respect now enjoy the full Benefit and Advantage of the Improvement in having a commodious and safe, instead of a narrow and dangerous Passage (liable to Floods, which are now effectually prevented) over the Bridge in Question, and that probably without having paid any Part of the Tolls which were collected for such Improvements.

The Rate when collected will be insufficient to repay the Debt incurred, thirteen of the Trustees having, in Confidence of obtaining a new Act, voluntarily advanced 1300*l.* to expediate the Improvements, and there being also other unsatisfied Debts to a considerable Amount, all of which must be provided for either by Tolls, or an additional Rate; for surely the Town and County cannot think it fit and reasonable that the Burthen should fall on a few Individuals, who have bestowed much Time and Attention to this Business (having attended more than 70 Meetings at which they have borne there own Expences), and who are conscious to themselves of deserving the Thanks and not the Censure of the Public, though the Tolls have unfortunately been less productive, and the Expenditure in putting the Act in Execution, more especially in sinking the Bed of the River, hath much exceeded what was expected.

The Proceedings of the Trustees at each Meeting, and the Statement of the Accounts, together with the Cases above mentioned, and the Opinions of Counsel thereon, may be seen by applying to Messrs. Barker and Unett.

BARKER AND UNETT,
Solicitors to the Trustees.

The Constable of Birmingham now entered upon the contest. It is clear that Mr. Atkins was alive to the interests of his parish, and had no desire that it should be saddled with a levy to pay for the Bridge:—

DERITEND BRIDGE.

September 26, 1796.—Whereas Notice has been given of an intended Application to Parliament for Powers to raise Money to discharge a Debt incurred in erecting Deritend Bridge; and, whereas, these is Reason to expect that an attempt will be made to saddle the Parish of Birmingham with Levies, to defray the Expence of Building the said Bridge, situated in the Parish of Aston, and making other Improvements in the said Parish: I am requested to call a Town's Meeting on Tuesday next, at the Public Office, precisely at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, First, To consider of opposing such an Attempt; and, Secondly, To devise such Means as may cause the Money to be raised by an efficient Toll on the Bridge; which is the only fair Mode of making every one contribute in exact Proportion to the Benefit he may receive.

Birmingham, Sept. 22, 1796. THOMAS ATKINS, Constable.

The meeting was held, and the opinions of the inhabitants will be gathered from the following report:—

DERITEND BRIDGE.

October 3, 1796.—At a numerous and respectable Meeting of the Inhabitants of Birmingham, held this Day at the Public Office, agreeable to Advertisement in Aris's and Swinney's Newspapers;

Mr. BARTH REDFERN in the Chair;

The following Resolutions were proposed and agreed to:—

1. That as Deritend Bridge is a County Bridge, and not in the Parish of Birmingham, it is unjust that a Levy should be imposed on the said Parish to defray the Expence of erecting it.

2. That the most equitable Mode of making every one contribute in exact Proportion to the Benefit he may receive, is to obtain Power to establish an efficient Toll on the Bridge.

3. That the Overseers and Constables for the Time being, with five other respectable Inhabitants, to be now named, be appointed as a Committee to watch the Proceedings in Parliament; and to endeavour to prevent the Parish of Birmingham (already sufficiently oppressed by Levies) from being subjected to any additional Burthen towards Improvements in another Parish; and that any Five be empowered to Act.

The following Gentlemen were chosen accordingly: Messrs. Bartholomew Redfern, John Collard, Thomas Cooper, Joseph Fearon, James Pickard.

4. That the said Committee have Power in the Name of the Inhabitants of Birmingham to employ Counsel and oppose in both Houses of Parliament, by Petition, or otherwise, any Clause in the intended, or any future Bill for the same Purpose, which may subject the Parish of Birmingham to pay any more towards the said Bridge and Improvements than what may be imposed in the form of a Toll upon the Bridge; and that the Expence attending such opposition be paid by the Constables, and charged in their Accounts to the Town.

5. That these Resolutions be signed by the Chairman, entered in the Church Levy Book, and Printed in both the Birmingham Newspapers.

BARTH. REDFERN.

Resolved, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman for his impartial Conduct; and also to Mr. Atkins for his readiness in calling this Meeting. Birmingham, September 27, 1796.

The next extract is a curious little episode in the history of

ASHTED CHAPEL.

October 31, 1796.—The Purchasers of Ashted Chapel intend to Let Sittings at Prices specified in a Scheme, to be had at the Chapel itself, on account of the Organ, &c.

Every Sitting is understood to be let for one year, and, without Half a Year's Notice, the Occupier will be supposed to hold on for the subsequent Year. The said Rents to be collected quarterly. It must be clear to every impartial Person, that the Prices are more moderate than could have been expected, and that they are varied more for the Sake of Accommodation than from any real Difference. None are at an inconvenient Distance from the Desk and Pulpit.

As it has been lamented that there is not gratuitous Accommodation for the Poor in other Churches and Chapels, the Purchasers beg leave to suggest, upon the Intimation of respectable Friends, that they will treat for any Number of Sittings which the charitable and humane may be disposed to subscribe for.

It must be obvious to every candid Mind that the Purchasers can expect little more than Indemnification, and that their principal Satisfaction arises from securing an Orthodox Place of Worship to the true Friends of the Church of England.

Martial as Birmingham was at this period, and ready as her people were to enter either army or navy, or the volunteer service, any exemption from military duty was a boon of which they knew the

value. On November 21, the editor informs his readers that, "In perusing the act for providing an augmentation to the Militia, we have had the pleasure to observe that this town is excused from raising any men. The other parts of the county of Warwick are to raise 900, the county of Stafford 2095, Salop 1558, Leicestershire 928, and Worcestershire 825 men."

The monotony of the year was relieved by a naval victory. On August 17, Admiral Elphinstone captured the Dutch fleet in Saldanha Bay. The news reached Birmingham in November, and was thus received :—

Birmingham, November 7.—On Friday, on the arrival here of the important intelligence of the capture of the Dutch squadron, the bells of the churches were rung, guns were fired, and the general gladness which was diffused over the countenance of every lover of his country, evinced how warmly he felt this new and unexpected success.

War brought its troubles as well as its rejoicings. Immediately after reading the account of bell-ringing and gun-firing, the other side of the shield was displayed in an unwelcome announcement like this :—"By the new tax the postage of a single letter from the metropolis to this town will be sevenpence."

Again futile attempts were made for the better observance of the Lord's Day :—

Birmingham Public Office, December 9, 1796.—At a Meeting held here this Evening, pursuant to an Advertisement inserted in the last Birmingham Gazette, relating to the resolution of the Clergy, Churchwardens, Peace Officers, and the Overseers of the Poor, for enforcing the better Observance of the Lord's Day, the Constables and a number of Gentlemen then present, actuated by a sincere Desire to promote the Welfare of the Community, voluntarily offered to meet at the Vestries belonging to the Churches and Chapels before Divine Service, to visit the adjacent Neighbourhood, in order to enforce the decent Observance of the Sabbath, by preventing the unlawful Exercise of Trades, and the assembling of riotous and disorderly Persons, using those unlawful Sports and Pastimes which have lately disgraced the Police of the town.

And as the Profanation of the Sabbath is productive of infinite Mischiefs, and frequently the first Step to the Commission of the most heinous Crimes and Offences towards God and Man, they most cordially invite all Friends to Religion and good Order of every Denomination to assist in this work so essentially necessary to the Peace, Security, Welfare, and Happiness of Society.

And in order to preserve the Spirit of these Resolutions, they have confirmed the Meetings to be held at this Office the first Friday in every future Month, at Six o'Clock in the Evening, to receive Reports, and to consider of such Measures to be taken as may promote this Purpose, so devoutly to be wished.

At the present day people are agitating for good and cheap dinners. At Glasgow, Mr. Corbett has proved by his many cooking dépôts that it is possible to provide a good substantial meal at an almost ludicrously small cost. London, and other places, are trying the experiment. At the end of 1796, a Birmingham man, impressed with the importance of the subject, especially to the poor, made the following admirable suggestions:—

December 26, 1796.

Mr. Pearson,—Sir,—While we are grateful to a kind Providence for giving us such an abundant harvest, and while we admire the wisdom and attention of Government, in bringing so large a stock of foreign corn into the kingdom, as so effectually to counteract the rapacity of unfeeling monopolizers, that we have again the blessing of bread at a moderate price; we have still to lament that Meat continues so dear, and consequently difficult to be obtained by the poor. While this is the case, it appears strange to me that small cooks' shops are not more generally established in every town, for selling provisions ready cooked, and particularly good soup, than which nothing is more satisfying, nothing more nourishing. For, in general, the poor are so deficient in the requisites for cooking, viz., knowledge of the art, proper utensils, and a good fire, that what little meat they are enabled to buy is near one third lost; whereas if women who have been cooks in gentlemen's families were to keep small shops of this kind, they would, by buying their beef, oatmeal, leeks, onions, and other garden stuff, at the best hand, be enabled to put provisions upon the poor man's table at half the price he is enabled to do it himself; for it is to be lamented, that in general the wives of artificers in manufacturing towns are but moderately qualified for domestic duties. They are mostly brought up in shops from infancy, and consequently have but few opportunities of learning to sew, knit, make up linen, mend cloaths, cook, &c. And though is is rather foreign to my present purpose, I cannot help throwing out a hint—That an institution* to teach shop girls how to conduct themselves usefully as wives in the little arts above mentioned, would, in my opinion, be a very desirable one: for if women could find out that great secret of making home comfortable and agreeable, less of the source of their comforts (money) would be squandered at the ale house by their husbands.

I do hope, Sir, that these hints, conveyed through the extensive circle of your paper, may be productive of some good; and if the plan is not adopted in the way which I have already recommended for the mutual advantage of the buyer and seller, I would propose a subscription to establish a large Cooking Kitchen, where provisions being purchased at the very best hand, and being made the most of by a good cook (for bad ones only spoil provisions) might be retailed out at low prices. And pray let me ask—Why would not the Cooking Company sound as well as the Bread and Flour Company? Cooking is no despicable art, but, on the contrary, it reflects great honour upon the human species, inasmuch as it is a marked distinction from the brute creation; for I believe a man is the only cooking animal in the universe.

PHILANTHROPOS.

* The writer of this letter was far in advance of his age. We are only at the present time fully recognising and acting upon this wise suggestion made in the year 1796.

One of these cooking shops was opened in Peck Lane. It supplied the poor with good meat soup at a penny a quart. It was opened on Thursday, January 5, 1797, and on the first day 300 quarts were sold, and on Saturday, 400. "It was very pleasant," we are told, "to observe the satisfaction which the plan gave to the objects whom it was intended to relieve." The practice was continued for some time, and was no doubt instrumental in lessening the great distress which then prevailed in the town.

The Sunday question still gave much trouble to the authorities, cleric and lay. At an adjourned meeting of the "Peace officers and inhabitants," held on February 3, it was

Resolved, That the Town be divided into five Districts, for the Church and Chapel Wardens, the Overseers of the Poor, Peace Officers, and other Inhabitants of the Town, to visit the present Month. And they have been authorized by our worthy Magistrates to give public Notice, that whatever complaints are made to them of the Breach of the Laws relating to the Sabbath, however respectable the Parties, they are determined to execute Impartial Justice on all Delinquents that may be brought before them, being desirous of supporting the Officers of the Town in this laudable Regulation, so essentially necessary to the Welfare of the Community.

The Duke of York had ordered a return to be made of the billeting accommodation of the public houses throughout the country. From this return we find that 3,286 men, and 1,329 horses could be accommodated by the publicans of this town.

The public credit was in jeopardy at this time. By an order in Council on February 26, the Bank of England had been restricted from cash payments, and one pound notes were issued on the 4th of March. Birmingham at once gave support to the authorities, for on March 6 we read :—

A very numerous meeting of the Merchants and Tradesmen of this town was held at the Hotel on Thursday, to consider of the most effectual means of supporting public credit at the present juncture, when unanimous resolutions were entered into not only to take in payment upon all occasions notes of the Bank of England, but the five guinea and other notes of the Banks of this Town. Similar resolutions have been entered into at other places, and it is sincerely to be hoped all persons will be as accommodating to each other as possible in the circulation of the specie, as the only means of averting a probable calamity, which the hoarding of money at the present crisis is more likely to create than any one cause whatever.

One of the powerful reasons which operated upon Government to order the Bank to withhold for the present their payments in specie, is the circumstance of an English

guinea now selling at Hamburgh from 23 to 24 shillings; and the Jews have found secret means to export our coin thither by thousands weekly.

The following brief note is illustrative of the period :—

April 3, 1797.—We think it necessary to inform our readers that, after Wednesday, any person wearing a hat without the Stamp in it directed by Act of Parliament is liable to a penalty of ten pounds.

The next extract records the completion of a "work of peace :"—

Worcester and Birmingham Canal Tunnel.

April 10, 1797.—This great tunnel is at length completed. The first brick of the stupendous work was laid on the 28th of July, 1794, and it was wholly arched over on the 25th of February, 1797. It is also worthy of remark, that Seventeen hundred and eighty-two yards, two feet, and eight inches, were finished from the 1st of January, 1796, to the 1st of January, 1797. At the commencement of this undertaking, the practicability of it was treated with the greatest ridicule and reprobation: it was said that the *embankments*, the *deep cutting*, and the *tunnel*, could not be executed; we can, however, at this moment say, that by the great skill and attention of the Engineers, Messrs. Jones and Cartwright, the whole of this business is most substantially finished. The extent of the tunnel is upwards of a mile and a half, and yet so straight that it may be seen from one end to the other, and the accuracy of the brick-work is well worthy the attention of any architect or bricklayer.

We need not wonder that at such a time of general ignorance newspapers were severely taxed. The governing powers looked with no friendly eye upon the growing importance of the Press, and were not scrupulous in the means they employed to check and restrain it. A new Tax was this year imposed upon newspapers by Parliament, and for once our beloved *Aris* becomes indignant and gives the "powers that be" a bit of his mind. It it quite refreshing to read this little outburst of genuine feeling :—

New Tax Upon Newspapers.

May 1, 1797.—If any thing could increase our surprise at the Minister's unjust, unpolitic, and enormous additional Tax upon Newspapers, it is the tame acquiescence with which the proposition was received in the House on Wednesday last by the independent Members, not one of whom had feeling enough for the most numerous class of their constituents, to resist an impost which must deprive that class in every part of the kingdom of the gratification, or (as the Minister pleases to term it) of the *Luxury* of reading the public news.

Had they made the least opposition, Mr. Pitt, we are convinced, would not have pressed the measure; and we now persuade ourselves, when he comes to consider what a draw back it will occasion upon the Revenue it will ultimately be given up. If he means the tax to operate as a restriction upon the liberty of the press, he has missed his aim;—weekly and diurnal politics, however dear the purchase, will still be read by numbers,

though not so universally, and the image of the Snake in the Fable, which could not do otherwise than *turn when trod upon*, will serve as a fit emblem to decorate the head of every paper of character in the kingdom.

Newspapers have hitherto been a very productive source of revenue; but, we assert it, if the tax is laid, they will be so no longer—many must fall, and those that survive the shock will experience such an abridgement of sale and advertisements, as will entirely counteract the views of the Minister. He will do in the present instance, as he has done by the Wine Tax, the produce of which since he imposed the additional duty, it appears from a conversation, on Thursday, in the House of Commons, is deficient *one third* of the sum at which he calculated it.

When he talked of *luxuries*, did it not occur to him that there was scarcely a house of any opulence in the kingdom, in which there were not musical instruments of some kind or other? Or does he deem music paper, which is sold by thousands of reams per annum, *less a luxury* than an advertising Journal, which the profession of numbers necessitates them to take in? We trust the Minister will re-consider the subject, and if he will levy part of the money proposed to be raised on such articles as those just mentioned, and lay only a *small* additional duty on public prints, he will, we are convinced, find his purpose best answered.

The next allusion to the subject is in a slightly different tone :—

Birmingham, June 26, 1797.—The Act which lays so heavy an additional Duty on Newspapers received the Royal Assent on Thursday, and the Printer laments that it will oblige him, as well as the Printers of all other respectable Country Papers, to advance the price of their publications, after the 6th of next month, to Sixpence.

Every exertion was made by the Profession in general to prevent so heavy an impost, but they found the exigencies of the State superseded the consideration of all the arguments they had to offer.

Under these circumstances the Printer of This Gazette relies upon the justice and liberality of his Friends, and trusts the Public will with cheerfulness comply with a regulation which necessity imposes; but should any of his customers, in consequence of the unavoidable advance of price, determine to discontinue his Papers, he earnestly requests they will give a week's notice to the distributor, as the Stamp office (not allowing of any returns) will oblige him to pay the duty upon every sheet he strikes off, whether he sells it or not.

The dispute about the payment for Deritend Bridge continued, and on May 22, Henry Parker, clerk to the subscribers, issued the following notice :—

To the Inhabitants or Birmingham, Hamlet of Deritend, and Liberty of Bordesley.

DERITEND BRIDGE.

Whereas the Acting Commissioners named in an Act of Parliament for erecting Deritend Bridge, notwithstanding they (according to the opinions of two eminent Counsel, Messrs. Gibbs and Romilly) have now no legal Claim, persist in enforcing the Payment of One Shilling in the Pound on all Houses of or above £10 a year, in the said Parish, Hamlet, and Liberty, and 6d. in the Pound upon all Lands. And whereas

on the 8th instant they, by Virtue of a Warrant, seized the Goods of Mr. John Collard,* Hatter, of the High Street—This is to inform all those liable to be treated in the same Manner, that it is intended to bring the Matter to legal Issue, by an Action of Trespass, supported by voluntary Subscriptions; and that a Deputation of those Gentlemen who are determined to oppose what they consider to be an Imposition will call on each Individual liable to this Claim, to receive their Contributions towards covering the Expence; and the Subscribers are requested to meet at the Castle Inn, in the High Street, on Monday, the 12th day of June next, at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, to appoint a Committee to superintend the Proceedings.

HENRY PARKER,
Clerk to the present Subscribers.

Birmingham, May 22, 1797.

Here is another proof of the heavy hand with which the Chancellor of the Exchequer imposed burdens upon trade :—

TAX ON CLOCKS AND WATCHES.

July 17, 1797.—At a General Meeting, held pursuant to Advertisement, at the Shakespere Tavern, of Persons concerned in the Clock and Watch, and Watch Chain and Toy Trades, the following Resolutions were adopted unanimously :—

Resolved, I. That a large Proportion of the Manufacturers of Birmingham are dependent for the Support of themselves and Families upon the Clock and Watch, and Watch Chain and Toy Trades.

Resolved, II. That it is the Opinion of this Meeting that the intended Tax upon Clocks and Watches, in its present Form, will be highly injurious to the Trade of this Town, by diminishing in a very great Degree the Demand for those Articles, and their Appendages.

Resolved, III. That notwithstanding our Apprehensions of the probable effects of the Tax as proposed, yet so fully sensible are we of the necessity of contributing to supply the exigencies of the State, and of the Difficulty of finding fit Objects for Taxation, that we feel disposed cheerfully to acquiesce in the Measure, providing it be so modified as to remove the Danger of injuring our Trade.

Resolved, IV. That it appears to this Meeting, that the evil dreaded would in a great Degree be prevented, provided the proposed exceptions be made in Favour of Persons living in Houses not assessed to the House and Window Duties, all hired Servants and Apprentices living in Houses not charged to the Inhabited House Duty, and all Seamen and Soldiers.

Resolved, V. That the Thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Chairman, for his attention to the Business of the Day.

WILLIAM SMITH, Chairman.

Once more we have to consider the

DERITEND BRIDGE RATE.

October 9, 1797.—Several Inhabitants of the Town having been again summoned before the Magistrates to shew Cause why they object to pay the Deritend Bridge Rate, and having consented to discharge the same—those Occupiers of Houses and

* A notice of this Birmingham worthy will be found in the chapter on the Poet Freeth.

Land who have not yet paid the several Sums assessed upon them, are informed, that the Collectors will attend at their Houses for the Purpose of receiving the same ; and all Persons who object to pay, upon Application, will be summoned before the Magistrates without further notice.

The present Rate (which is One Shilling in the Pound upon Houses of the value of Ten Pounds a year and upwards, and Sixpence in the Pound upon Land) is the only Rate which the Trustees have a Power to make by the Act of Parliament.

BARKER AND UNETT, Solicitors.

Notwithstanding the heavy taxes, the bitter distress of the people, and the general ruin which seemed hanging over the country, the loyalty of the nation was as strong as ever. Every royal birthday was celebrated with the utmost enthusiasm, and the news of a victory obtained by our forces, either military or naval, was the signal for an outburst of almost delirious joy. In this year, on October 11, Admiral Duncan defeated the Dutch fleet off Camperdown, and Birmingham received the news in the manner described below :—

October 23, 1797.—The provincial papers teem with accounts of the rejoicing and enthusiasm with which the news of the glorious defeat of the Dutch Fleet has been received in every part of the kingdom. The demonstrations of joy have been continued in this town for several days. On Monday morning, the First Regiment of Dragoons (the Royals), attended by Colonel Kinsey and the other Officers, with their excellent band of music, were drawn up in New Street, opposite the new Inn now erecting by Mrs. Lloyd, and after going through their several manœuvres, fired three grand vollies, which were saluted by the loud and general cheers of the populace. In the afternoon the gentlemen of the Loyal Birmingham Association assembled in St. Philip's Churchyard, and likewise fired three vollies, for the first time since their appearance in arms. Tuesday was ushered in like the other days, by ringing of bells, and other public rejoicings, and the evening concluded with Fireworks, and one of the most general and splendid Illuminations ever witnessed in this Town.

Rejoicing was followed by thanksgiving. The extract, in which this is recorded, also informs us that the parade was at this time in New Street :—

December 25, 1797.—Tuesday was strictly observed here as a day of General Thanksgiving. All the shops were shut, and every Church and Place of Worship uncommonly crowded. The Military Associations of Cavalry and Infantry (the latter with their new band of music) assembled on the parade in New Street—from whence they proceeded in regular order, the former to the Old Church, and the latter to St. Philip's, where sermons suitable to the occasion were preached by the Rev. Spencer Madan, and the Rev. J. Cooke.

Our townsmen showed their loyalty in a better fashion than by illuminations. In this month they formed a fund for the relief of the "widows and children of the brave men who fell in the service of their

country, and of such as were wounded in the late glorious engagement." In a few days upwards of £400 was raised for this object. The year closed with the usual contributions to supply the poor with meat, bread, and soup.

Among the articles which the ministers contemplated adding to the almost endless list of those already taxed, was that of iron. The injury which such a tax would have inflicted on this town and district would have been incalculable; and our manufacturers were most active and energetic in their efforts to prevent its imposition. A meeting was held, and delegates appointed to wait on Mr. Pitt. On April 16, 1798, the result of these efforts was thus communicated to the public :—

We have the satisfaction to state, that Mr. Gibbons, one of the delegates of the iron trade, for the purpose of averting the intended tax on iron, has received a letter from Mr. George Rose, dated the 11th instant, stating that Mr. Pitt has decided not to bring forward such a tax this Session. Though this determination of the Minister appears not to be a total abandonment of the measure, yet it affords ground to hope that a farther consideration of the strong reasons that have been, and may be adduced against such a vexatious and ruinous tax (in which this very populous neighbourhood is so materially interested) may be the means of inducing Mr. Pitt to relinquish the idea for ever.

The next extract shows the strong military feeling of the time :—

July 9, 1798.—Early on Saturday morning the troops of the First or Royal Regiment of Dragoons, which have been quartered in our barracks and town since last September, marched hence, and took their route for Exeter. As a just tribute of respect and thankfulness, the Birmingham Light Horse attended their friends and instructors out of town; and the Loyal Association of Infantry politely mustered, and saluted in line the Officers and troops as they quitted the Place. On no occasion shall we execute our duty with greater pleasure than in expressing how justly this is the public opinion of this fine disciplined regiment. During their stay here, the conduct of the men has been exemplary, moral, and civil; and the polite, constant, and friendly attention of Lieutenant Colonel Kinsey and the other Officers has been such as to be beyond any praise we can bestow. Where'er the Royals go, thither will they ever be followed by the grateful remembrance and best wishes of the Town.

The same morning the Royals left us, troops of our old acquaintance the Third or King's Own Dragoons, marched into the Town from Nottingham.

The next two extracts refer to a public undertaking of importance. It is strange to find that it was proposed to provide a Public Office by the adoption of the tontine plan, and not by rates :—

Public Office, July 25, 1798.—At a numerous and respectable Meeting held this Day (agreeable to notice by Advertisement in Aris's Birmingham Gazette of the 23rd Instant), for the purpose of submitting to the Consideration of the Town, the Propriety of taking late Mansell's House, situate in High-street, for a Public Office, Charles Lloyd in the Chair;

The several Plans and Estimates for altering and repairing the House in New Street (late Bedford's) and the House (late Mansell's) in the High-street, for the general Accommodation of the Justices, Overseers, Commissioners of Lamps and Scavengers, and Town at large, having been taken into Consideration, and a new Plan having been produced for erecting a new Building adapted for all the above purposes, with an addition thereto of a large Room for Public Town Meetings, the Money to be paid for the same to be raised by Subscription of Ten Pounds each, on a Tontine Plan, and the interest thereof at 5 per cent., together with the Ground Rent, to be paid, one Half by the Constables, and the other Half by the Commissioners of Lamps and Scavengers;

Resolved unanimously, That, taking all Circumstances into Consideration, this new Plan is most likely to answer the Purposes intended, and that it will be a great Convenience to the Town.

July 30, 1798.—At a respectable Meeting of the Inhabitants of this town, on Wednesday last, it was unanimously resolved to erect, upon a Tontine plan, a Building for the accommodation of the Magistrates, the Commissioners of Lamps, &c., and Town at large. Six Hundred and Fifty Pounds has been already subscribed to encourage this eligible plan.

The Overseers and Guardians of the poor had long been troubled as to the best manner of dealing with pauper children. The plan adopted was that of putting them out to nurse; but the evils resulting from the system were very great. Accordingly, in 1797, they took some premises in Summer Lane, and formed them into an Asylum for the Infant Poor. The results of its first year's existence are given in the following report:—

Birmingham Asylum, Summer Lane.

July 17, 1798.—At an Annual Meeting of the Committee for the conducting this Institution, calculated not only to promote Economy in the Parochial Revenue, but to preserve the Health and Morals, to educate and train up the Infant Poor in Habits of Industry and Usefulness—It appeared that in an average of 248 Children, very considerable Savings had been made (beside promoting the above useful and important Purposes), the annual Expenditure not being Three-fourths of that of Out-nursing; and notwithstanding the Rage of several infectious Diseases, which nearly pervaded the whole Family, yet not more than seven died during the whole Year;—added to these Advantages they have been taught to read, the Females have knit several Hundred Pairs of Stockings, besides Sewing, repairing Cloaths, and considerably aiding in the Domestic Business. Taking the above into Consideration, and aware of the peculiar Importance to this Town to have a Succession of Female Servants for its Supply, as well as to forward the present laudable and needful Disposition to Family Economy—

Resolved, That an Advertisement be inserted in Aris's Birmingham Gazette, stating that any respectable Family may, by Application at the Asylum, have the Trial of one, as a Servant for one Year, and, if approved, to be bound for the remaining six. Several useful, well behaved Boys may be also had on Trial, as Apprentices to Manufacturers.

N.B.—Knitting in Cotton, or Worsted, done on reasonable Terms.

In the next week's *Gazette*, the editor thus urges the claims of the Asylum upon the Inhabitants:—

September 3, 1798.—We cannot but seriously recommend to the notice of our readers, the benefits which the town may derive from taking the children of the poor into their families, since their education and employments in the Asylum* have so fitted them for such services, by habits of useful industry, and moral order.

Deritend Bridge is still a source of trouble to the trustees. The expenditure, as is usual in such cases, exceeded the receipts; and the trustees give notice that they shall apply to Parliament for "fresh powers:"—

DERITEND BRIDGE.

August 17, 1798.—Whereas an Act of Parliament was made and passed in the 28th Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, entitled "An Act for rebuilding the Bridge over the River Rea, at the Town of Birmingham, called Deritend Bridge, and widening the Avenues thereto, and for widening and varying the Course of the said River near the said Bridge, and making a Weir, and other necessary Works to prevent the lower Part of the said Town from being overflowed;" and the Expenditure therein having necessarily exceeded the Money which the Trustees by such Act were empowered to raise; Notice is hereby given that Application will be made to Parliament in the next Session, for fresh Powers to enable the Trustees to raise Money by a Toll upon the Bridge, to pay off and discharge the principal Sums now remaining unpaid, and the Interest thereof.

BARKER AND UNETT, Solicitors.

The joy at Lord Duncan's victory over the Dutch, in 1797, survived the event, and it was resolved to celebrate its anniversary in a useful and appropriate manner. This is the note preliminary:—

September 17, 1798.—We understand it is in contemplation to celebrate the Anniversary of the glorious Victory obtained on the 11th of October last, by Admiral Lord Duncan, over the Dutch Fleet, by a Grand Concert of Vocal and Instrumental Music, for the benefit of Mr. Jeremiah Clark,† of this Town.

When we recollect how highly the lovers of harmony were gratified by the admirable performance gratuitously directed by this Gentleman, for the Benefit of the Widows and Orphans of the brave Seamen who were killed or wounded in that ever memorable action, we cannot doubt that the public in general, and the inhabitants of this town in particular, will display their usual liberality upon the occasion, and we are persuaded the performance will be such as will amply repay their generosity.

But this year our naval forces obtained a still greater victory. On August the 1st, the invincible Nelson won the Battle of the Nile. The news reached Birmingham on October the 3rd; it was brought and received in this manner:—

* The Asylum Building is still standing in Summer Lane, with the original Beehive on the tablet in front. The children were removed in 1852, when the present Workhouse, at Birmingham Heath, was opened.

† Mr. Clark was organist at St. Mary's Church, and the author of many musical works, which are now exceedingly rare.

October 8, 1798.—The arrival of the Mail Coach on Wednesday last, decorated with ribbons, and with colours flying on it, announced to us that it brought official particulars of the glorious victory atchieved by the brave Nelson; and the Town instantly exhibited a scene of the most enthusiastic joy and exultation. Here, as elsewhere, a general Ringing, Firing, and Illumination took place;—the Regiment of Scots Grays, the Corps of Loyal Associated Cavalry and Infantry, paraded and fired; and every patriotic breast was warmed with the most just and rapturous triumph of the British Tars over the Enemies of their Country and Mankind. From almost every Town within our circuit, we have received similar accounts. Indeed our paper would not contain all that has been written us; and our friends and correspondents will be aware, however strong their respective wishes, that it would ill become us to give the detail of what passed at any one particular place, in preference to all the rest.

November 29 was set apart for a day of National Thanksgiving, and every preparation was made for keeping it with the utmost decorum. It is true the people were in a state of great suffering; trade was very bad; the Habeas Corpus Act had been suspended; Ireland was in a state of insurrection; trials for sedition were going on in England, and freedom of speech was a by-word. Still Nelson had obtained a splendid victory, and the majority of the people were thoroughly with the stubborn king and his ministers. In Birmingham a practical man suggested that the day of thanksgiving should be turned to account. The tone of his letter is in keeping with the deep loyalty of the time, and the feelings which the people held towards the king.

To the Printer of Aris's Birmingham Gazette.

November 5th, 1798.—Mr. Pearson,—Our revered and much loved Sovereign, with that piety which at once adorns and establishes his Throne, having, with the advice of his Privy Council, set apart a day for public and general Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the signal successes with which He has lately blessed his Majesty's arms by sea; his faithful subjects, sensible of the miseries they have escaped, and of the important blessings which are thereby continued to them, will, I doubt not, cordially unite with him in heart-felt thanks-giving to the God of all Mercies on the day appointed. Were it possible that the kind solicitude of the "Father of his People" could be fully gratified, I am persuaded not a sigh would be heard, or a tear (except of grateful joy) would on that day be shed through the land.

As the manufactories throughout this large and populous town will of course be shut up, and that numerous and valuable class of our fellow citizens, the labouring poor, be deprived of the produce of a day's labour, and as many of them at present are not allowed to work more than four, and others five days in the week, I beg leave through your valuable paper, to suggest to the liberal, patriotic, and ingenious manufacturers of this town, the propriety of permitting such of their men who have not full employ, to work the whole of the week preceding the 29th instant, and to reserve so much out of their money on Saturday, the 24th, to be paid them on Wednesday, the 28th, as shall be equal to a good day's wages. Should this hint be adopted, it will cheer the hearts

of many, and prevent the glow of rising gratitude from being chilled by the prospect of a scanty meal, and the inability to provide for the wants of a numerous and craving offspring. In those cases where benevolence is thus discovered, I should hope it is unnecessary to add, that the objects of it would be bound by the strictest ties of gratitude and justice to employ the money for the comfort of their families, and not squander it in intemperance.

I remain, Sir, very respectfully,

AN INHABITANT.

P.S.—This hint is equally applicable to the manfacturers of Walsall, Wolverhampton, and other towns in the neighbourhood.

Next week this announcement was made :—

November 12, 1798.—It is intended, we understand, on the Thanksgiving Day, to have a Collection at the doors of all the places of worship in the town, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the brave men who fell on the glorious First of August, and we doubt not but the collection that will then be made will manifest the humanity of every individual, and the just sense entertained of the benefit that must accrue to our country from this most signal victory. In announcing this intention here, our view is to recommend to other places a similar resolution.

The way in which the day was kept, and the amounts collected, are given in the two succeeding *Gazettes* :—

Birmingham, December 3, 1798.—It is impossible for us to give room to all the accounts that have been sent to our office of the attention which was paid, within the circuit of this paper, to the solemnity of the National Thanksgiving on Thursday last. Anxious, therefore, as some of our correspondents seem to be, that all the particulars they have written us should appear, we must confine ourselves solely to state that, in this and all the neighbouring towns, the churches were unusually crowded, the Volunteer Corps of Cavalry and Infantry paraded to them, and the devout aspirations of a grateful people ascended in praise and thanksgiving to the Supreme Giver of all Victory. In most of the places of worship collections were made for the relatives of the brave men who have gloriously fell and suffered in the defence of their country ; and in all the towns some object of charity appears to have been thought of. At Wolverhampton, the fine body of Volunteer Infantry there distributed beef, soup, bread, &c., to nearly 1,000 people. The collections made at the churches, &c., in this town, and in the neighbourhood, as yet reported to the High Bailiff (for some bequests, we believe, are not now sent in) are as follows :—

In Birmingham	£	s.	d.
St. Martin's Church	64	1	2
St. Philip's ditto	76	12	1½
Deritend Chapel	7	19	0
St. Mary's ditto	59	6	4½
St. Paul's ditto	42	7	3
Union Chapel			
Livery Street ditto	41	14	0
Bond Street ditto	3	0	0
Baptist Chapel	6	0	1½
Papist ditto	9	2	4
Total in Birmingham	£310	2	4½

	£	s.	d.
Edgbaston	2	5	6
Moseley Chapel	7	4	0
Rowley Regis	5	0	0
Bilstone	10	0	0
December 10, 1798.—Collected in Churches, Chapels, &c., as stated in our last	£334	11	10½
St. Bartholomew's Chapel	7	6	7
Ashted Chapel	4	6	10
Paradise Street Chapel	1	5	1¾
King Street ditto	7	15	5¼
Cherry Street ditto	7	19	10
Coleshill Street ditto	3	0	2
Old Temple, Newhall Street	1	1	0
Samuel Pemberton, Esq.	5	5	0
Benjamin Stokes, Esq.	3	3	0
Kingswood Meeting	5	0	0
Edgbaston Church, in addition	0	5	0
Harborne Church	7	1	0
Castle Bromwich Church	4	11	7
	£392	12	5½

The Sunday question was a source of great trouble at this time, as it has been at many periods since. Our forefathers did their best to preserve order and decorum on the Lord's Day, but we are afraid with little success. Here is the record of another attempt in this direction, which shows the earnestness of the authorities and the clergy in this matter.

PROFANATION OF THE SABBATH.

Birmingham, Public Office, October 26, 1798.—Great Complaints having lately been made by many serious and well-disposed Inhabitants of the Town, that (notwithstanding the repeated Admonition of the Church and Chapel Wardens) many Butchers, Hucksters, and others, continue to exercise their Trades on the Lord's Day; many Publicans suffer Tippling in their Houses during Divine Service; and many riotous and disorderly Persons assemble themselves and practice unlawful Sports and Pastimes, particularly in a place called the Workhouse Fields:—Notice is hereby given that the Church and Chapel Wardens, by the Advice of the Clergy, Peace Officers, Overseers of the Poor, and many respectable Inhabitants, have resolved invariably to present before the Magistrates, and publish the names of whomsoever they may hereafter find thus offending, without any Respect to Situation or Character. And they have the Authority of the undersigned Magistrates for stating, that they also are determined strictly to enforce the Laws against the Profanation of the Sabbath. They, therefore, earnestly entreat the concurrent Assistance of the Inhabitants of every Degree and Denomination, to prevent such disorderly Practices; and exhort Parents and Masters of Families, to oblige their Children, Servants, and Apprentices, to reverence and keep holy the Sabbath Day.

And whereas Profaneness, Immorality, and the Neglect of religiously observing the Lord's Day among the lower orders of People, are usually attended with Poverty and Misery, and bring heavy Expenses on the Parish; the Overseers of the Poor request the Inhabitants of the Town to give Information to the Vestry Clerk, at the Workhouse, of such Persons, who receive Pay, and are found guilty of Tippling, Drunkenness, &c., in order that their weekly Pay may be withheld, as they shall consider such Objects unworthy of Parochial Relief.

(Signed.) W. Villers, W. Hicks, Magistrates; Rev. C. Curtis, Rector, Rev. J. Cook, Curate, and the Rev. Dr. Croft, Lecturer, of St. Martin's; Rev. S. Madan, Rector, Rev. W. Woodcock, Curate, and the Rev. E. Dales, Lecturer, of St. Philip's; Rev. W. T. Young, Minister of St. Paul's; Rev. E. Burn, Minister of St. Mary's; Rev. T. Price, Minister of St. Bartholomew's; John Clark, High Bailiff; Mr. Sanders, Low Bailiff; Messrs. Pratchet, Cope, Vale, and Warren, Church Wardens; Hughes, Aston Rock, and Groves, Chapel Wardens. Signed also by the Constables, Headborough, and the Overseers of the Poor.

The proper regulation of public houses is one of the most important of our social questions. The following rules will show with what care the authorities looked after this part of their public duties, before the town became a Corporation:—

Birmingham, Public Office. November 9, 1798.—Rules respecting Licenses for Public Houses, approved of by the Magistrates, and agreed upon by the Parishes of Birmingham, the Ministers, Church Wardens, and Chapel Wardens of the Town of Birmingham, who will sign no Certificates, nor listen to any Application, unless the Parties applying shall appear from personal Knowledge, or from authentic Information, to be free from every Kind of Profligacy, and of such strict Honour and Integrity, as may establish in the minds of the Magistrates a full Confidence that they will discourage all Tippling and Irregularity, particularly in the labouring people.

If the Party applying be of another Parish, he must have a Certificate from the Minister and Church Wardens of that Parish, till he has resided three years in this.

If of this Parish, he must bring a Testimony from his nearest Neighbours, and from some respectable Person, who having furnished him with Employment, will answer for his Honesty, Sobriety, and Industry.

If he has been in Service, he must have the Attestation of his Master.

If removing from one House to another, he must prove that the Owner of the House he leaves is satisfied as to his Honesty and good Behaviour.

New Tenants often act under Licenses granted to the old. This Practice, as it is dangerous to themselves, likewise takes away that Power of Control which the Law has vested in the Magistrates for the Exclusion of improper Persons.

Whoever shall, from his own Knowledge, be able to pronounce any House disorderly, either in corrupting the Morals of the People, promoting Sedition, or unsettling good Principles, is seriously requested to give proper Information to the Magistrates themselves, or to any other competent Persons.

An Alehouse keeper encouraging Tippling forfeits 10s., to be levied by the Church Wardens or Constables.

Perseverance in the Offence makes him liable to a forfeiture of his License for three years.

An Alehouse keeper encouraging Gaming, forfeits for the first Offence 40s. For every subsequent one 10*l.*, Three-fourths to the Poor—One-fourth to the Informer. Individuals guilty of Tippling forfeit 3s. 4d.; in the case of Non-payment, to be confined four Hours in the Stocks.

Drunkenness, first Offence, 5s.

Alehouse keeper, for Drunkenness, forfeits his License for three years.

Carriers, Waggoners travelling, or Butchers Killing, on the Lord's Day, forfeit 6s. 8d.

By 29th of George 2, any Drover, Horse Courser, Waggoner, Butcher, Higgler, or their Servants, travelling or coming to an Inn, on the Lord's Day, forfeit 20s.

Penalties for Swearing, 1s., 2s., and 5s., according to the Quality of the Offender.

Another step is made towards obtaining the

NEW PUBLIC OFFICE.

Public Office, Dale End, December 3rd, 1798.—The Committee appointed by a General Meeting of the Inhabitants of Birmingham, to carry into Effect a Resolution of the Town, for the Erection of a New Public Office (the Money to pay for the same to be raised by Subscription of Ten Pounds each, on a Tontine Plan, the Interest whereof, with the Ground Rent, to be paid, one Half by the Constables, and the other Half by the Commissioners of Lamps and Scavengers), have had many Meetings on this Business, and the Subscription of £1000, as agreed upon at the said Town's Meeting, being now full, and the Plans ready for Inspection, together with an Estimate, by which it appears, that a further Sum will be wanting, in order to procure all the requisite Accommodations—the Committee request the Inhabitants of Birmingham will attend a Meeting on this Business, at the Public Office, in Dale End, on Monday, the 7th of January, 1799, at Ten o'Clock in the Morning.

CLEM. COTTERILL,	CHARLES LLOYD,
THO. WILLMORE,	GEORGE BOONE,
JOHN WARD,	THO. ROBINSON.
EDWARD HUGHES,	ROBERT POWELL.
JOS. SHORE,	WM. WALKER,

WILLIAM PRICE.

The cold this winter was intense. On the last day of the year we find this entry:—"So extreme was the cold here at three o'clock on Friday morning last, that the Thermometer of Messrs. Giles and Forest's Brewery* was, in the open air, Twenty-seven degrees below the Freezing point, on Farenheit's scale."

At a meeting held on January 7, 1799, in reference to the erection of the new Public Office, it was shown that "a further sum of £600 at least over and above the sum of £1000 already subscribed on the Tontine Plan, will be wanting, in order to procure the requisite Accom-

* In Warstone Lane.

modation according to the Plans laid before the meeting;" and it was resolved that "further Subscriptions be solicited for the said sum of £600 on the Tontine Plan, at Five per Cent."

The next meeting of the new year was on that very important subject, the Copper Trade. It was held on March 26, "for the purpose of taking into Consideration the present alarming high Price of Copper, and to determine what Measures are proper to be taken to obtain such Provisions in the Bill now pending in Parliament for regulating the Exportation and Importation of Copper, as will protect the Trade of this Town and Neighbourhood in future from the great Inconveniences to which it has long been subject from the Fluctuation in the price of that necessary Article.

The price of all provisions was exceedingly high during this season of calamities. Meat and bread were almost at famine price, and various suggestions were made and many plans devised to lower the prices. In April a recommendation was made, which has been repeated in our own days:—

April 1, 1799.—A Correspondent recommends to the serious consideration of the public, the Observations in our last of the Agricultural Society at Bath, requesting all families to abstain from lamb, in order to keep down the price of meat, and particularly of mutton. It were also to be wished that proper steps might be taken to discourage the consumption of young veal, and that the Meat Conners would use particular diligence in detecting and destroying such as is unfit for consumption, whereof a great quantity is brought to our market every week.

The next advertisement gives us the date of the opening of the

NEW PUBLIC OFFICE.

May 6, 1799.—Notice is hereby given, that the Magistrates acting for the Town and Neighbourhood of Birmingham will begin to sit at the New Public Office in High street,* on Monday next, the 13th Instant, for the Dispatch of Public Business; and that the days of attendance will be on Mondays and Thursdays, at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon of each Day till further Notice.

JOHN RYLAND, }
JAMES BUSBY, } Constables.

The King's "natal day" was, as usual, kept with every demonstration of loyalty:—

June 10, 1799.—On Tuesday here, as everywhere else, the natal day of our beloved Sovereign was celebrated with the most zealous loyalty and joy. The Handsworth Cavalry, the Hales Owen Cavalry and Infantry, and the Bilstone Cavalry and

* The New Public Office was called "The Court House," and was situated at the bottom of a short passage almost opposite the end of New Street. It was afterwards used as a prison for poor debtors, and was popularly called by an unquotable *sobriquet*.

Infantry, having marched to unite, for the day, with the Cavalry and Infantry of the Town, they were obligingly joined by the Regiment of Royal North British Dragoons (the Greys) under the command of Colonel Boardman; and after parading in New street, they proceeded, amidst an immense concourse of people, to Birmingham Heath, where the whole were reviewed by the Colonel. On returning, the column passed through several streets of the Town, and the day was spent by the Volunteers (honoured with the Company of the Colonel and Officers of the Greys, Lieut. Burnet, and the Staff of the District) at the different Inns of the Town, with the utmost harmony and conviviality.

There was an Anacreontic Society in Birmingham at this time, which held its meetings at the once well-known house, the Eagle and Ball, in Colmore Street. From some cause or other they were not able to celebrate his Majesty's birthday until the 18th of June, and they inform the "Brothers of this Institution" of the fact, and request their attendance on that day, when "the introduction of a Friend by a Member will be admitted."

As a result of the meeting of the copper trade, held in March, the *Gazette* of June 24 informed its readers that that trade "is to become an object of Parliamentary regulation early in the next session." This statement is followed in a week or two by a report of a meeting on the same subject :—

COPPER TRADE.

Birmingham, July 5, 1799.—At a General Meeting of the Merchants and Manufacturers of this Town and Neighbourhood, held this day at the Stork Tavern, in Pursuance of a Public Advertisement; The High Bailiff in the Chair;

Resolved unanimously—1. That this Meeting learn with Pleasure that his Majesty's Ministers are determined to bring forward, early in the next Sessions of Parliament, some effectual Measure for reducing the present exorbitant and high Price of Copper, for preventing excessive Fluctuations therein, and for checking the Spirit of Monopoly in that Trade, so detrimental and distressing to the Trade of the Kingdom in general, and to the Manufacturers of this Town and Neighbourhood in particular.

2. That this Meeting are gratefully sensible of the Attention and Assistance afforded by Sir John Mordaunt, Bart., Sir George Shuckburgh Evelyn, Bart., Sir Edmund Cradock Hartopp, Bart., Isaac Hawkins Browne, Esq., William Wilberforce, Esq., and Heneage Legge, Esq., to the Gentlemen deputed from this Town to carry into Effect the Prayer of the Petition to his Majesty's Ministers on the subject, and request the High Bailiff to present the Thanks of this Meeting to those Gentlemen respectively.

3. That this Meeting have seen in the public Papers, and read with much and just Indignation a Paper industriously distributed at the door of the House of Commons, and throughout the County of Cornwall, insidiously signed "A Birmingham Manufacturer," but which, so far from containing the Sentiments of that Body, is universally considered by them as a gross Attempt to impose upon Parliament and the Public, and plainly shew

that if the Author ever was a Birmingham Manufacturer, he has now totally lost Sight of the Interests of the Town, and can be viewed in no other light than that of a Traitor to its Welfare and Prosperity.

4. That this Meeting feel, as they ought, the patriotic and generous Conduct of the Committees of the Birmingham Metal Company, the Birmingham Mining and Copper Company, and the Rose Copper Company, in having (with a View to alleviate the Losses which the Manufacturers will sustain until Parliament shall have passed an Act for their Relief) agreed to continue the Prices of Copper and Brass, to the Manufacturers, this and the two following months, the same as the three months last past, although the Price of Ore has been so great, as to have warranted their making a very considerable Advance; and they do not doubt that the other Brass Companies in this Town will, at their first Meeting, follow so laudable an Example.

5. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Committee and to Matthew Boulton, William Villers, and George Simcox, Esqrs., who sacrificed their private Concerns to the General Interests of the Town, in attending many Weeks in London on this Business, and that they be requested to continue their Exertions in such Manner as they judge best for the Attainment of the End so necessary to the Security and Prosperity of the Trade of the Town.

6. That the Thanks of this Meeting be also presented to Mr. Samuel Smith and Mr. Thomas Hadley, who so readily stepped forward with Evidence of Facts, confirming the Statement laid before the Committee of the House of Commons, and particularly for the Assistance afforded by Mr. Smith to the Deputation.

7. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman, and that he be requested to sign these Resolutions, and have the same inserted in the two Birmingham Papers, in the Sun, the Star, and the Morning Herald.

JOHN CLARKE, High Bailiff.

The following extracts refer to that source of continual trouble the "Gilt Button." This important article of Birmingham manufacture was invented by Mr John Taylor, of whom the enthusiast Hutton calls an "uncommon genius," and, in a mighty flight of fancy, tells us we may justly deem him "the Shakespear or the Newton of his day." He was, indeed, a skilful, ingenious, and successful manufacturer, and the importance of the button trade to the town may be seen from the fact that, in the historian's time, "in his shop were weekly manufactured buttons to the amount of £800, exclusive of other valuable productions." One of the great evils against which this trade had to contend was the skill of the Birmingham mechanics in counterfeiting. The series of quotations which follow refer to this subject :—

BUTTONS.

Birmingham, June 27, 1799.—Upon Tuesday last, L. Flershaim, a Jew Merchant, late of Frankfort, but now resident in Birmingham, and William Pring, Button maker (whom he employed) were severally convicted before the Magistrates of this Town, upon the

Information laid against them by Order of the Button Association, for causing, directing, and procuring the Words "Strong Gilt" to be stamped upon Metal Buttons contrary to Act of Parliament, the Merchant in the Penalty of 39*l.*, and the Manufacturer in the Penalty of 15*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* It appeared in Evidence that the Buttons were marked "Strong Gilt," and made for a Price at which it appeared it was impossible the Manufacturer could make them without being at a ruinous Loss, if Gilt only according to the Standard required by the Act for single Gilt Buttons.

N.B.—A Reward of Ten Guineas will be paid upon Conviction to any Person or Persons who shall discover any Offender or Offenders against the Button Act by applying to Mr. Simpson, Attorney, Cherry Street, Treasurer to the Button Association, and the Name of the Person giving the Information will not be made known.

BUTTONS.

Birmingham, July 8, 1799.—On Wednesday last, William Hawkins, of Birmingham, in the County of Warwick, Button maker, was convicted before the Magistrates of this Town in the Penalty of Nineteen Pounds, for causing, directing, or procuring fifteen Gross of Metal Buttons, marked "Gilt," to be placed or packed upon Cards or Papers, the same being Gilt below the Standard.

The Magistrates, in consequence of what the Manufacturer urged in Defence, were induced to mitigate the Penalty to Nine Pounds Ten Shillings.

GILT AND PLATED BUTTONS.

July 8, 1799.—The Committee of the Button Association hereby give Notice, that a Reward of Ten Guineas will be paid by Mr. Simpson, Cherry street, Solicitor to the Association, upon Conviction, to any Person or Persons who shall give Information against the Makers or Vendors of Metal Buttons that are gilt or marked contrary to Act of Parliament, and the name of the Informer will not be made known.

The Committee recommend the following easy Means of trying the Quality of Gilt Buttons.

Dissolve two Tea Spoonfuls of Common Salt in about a Tea Cupful of the Blackboil for cleaning Buttons; this Liquid will not immediately discolour Buttons, if gilt up to Standard; but every bare Part will become black, as soon as wet: if slightly gilt, will be speckled.

Mr. Thomas Phipson, in New Street (Assay Master to the Guardians of the Standard of Wrought Plate within the Town of Birmingham), and Mr. Joseph Wetherley Phipson, his Son, having been proposed and approved of at a General Meeting of the Association, as proper Persons to assay Gilt and Plated Buttons, they have in Consequence made Oath before the Magistrates to report the same, in all Cases, justly and truly, without Favour or Affection, to the best of their Knowledge, Skill, and Judgment; any Person therefore desirous of ascertaining the precise Quantity of Gold which Buttons contain, may do so at the Expence of Five Shillings for a double Assay and have the Buttons and gold returned. Many dishonourable Attempts having been practised to evade the Act of Parliament and misguide Purchasers, by striking on different Marks than those authorised by the said Act, which are Gilt, Double Gilt, Treble Gilt, Plated; and it being the Duty of every Man to know and obey the Laws, and especially those which relate to his own Profession, the Committee refer the Manufacturers, &c., and particularly recommend them to

read the Act of Parliament passed in the year 1796, for regulating the Quality of Gilt and Plated Buttons, or to an Abstract of it published a short Time afterwards by Mr. Pearson, and sold at One Penny, as they are subject to an Information for ordering Buttons (marked Gilt) to be gilt under Standard; public Gilders are also liable to be indicted for a Fraud, and to be sued for Damages, for putting on less Gold than ordered by the Maker.

Any Person wishing to become a Member of the Association, will signify the same to Mr. Simpson, the Solicitor.

July 8, 1799.—W. Hawkins, to prevent any unfavourable Impression on the Public Mind, in Consequence of the mitigated Penalty which was paid at the Public Office on Wednesday last, begs Leave to state that the Error arose from no Desire to impose upon the Merchant or Consumer. W. H. was at the same Expence in manufacturing and gilding the Buttons in the manner he did, as if he had literally complied with the Words of the Act of Parliament. In adopting his Mode of finishing the Buttons, his View was only to render their Colour and good Appearance more durable, and not to gain by any deception whatever.

He takes the Liberty further to add, that, at his Desire, the Constables who visited his Warehouses, examined upwards of 400 Gross of other Gilt Buttons, and they were found, on the Application of Mr. Alston's Test, to be fully gilt to the Standard required.

We have now to record the funeral of an old Birmingham worthy. Samuel Galton was one of those men whose names and memory we should not let die. He was active in all the good works of the time; and took great interest in everything which could advance the intellectual and spiritual, as well as the material well-being of the town. He was a member of the famous Lunar Society, and was a friend of Watt, Boulton, and other leading men of the time. His daughter was the celebrated Mrs. Schimmelpenninck, in whose Memoirs will be found a very good account of the father.

July 15, 1799.—On Sunday, July 7th, the remains of the late Samuel Galton, Esq., of Duddeston, were deposited in the burying-ground belonging to the Quakers' Meeting in this town. A larger concourse of spectators attended than we ever remember to have seen on a similar occasion. The most decorous conduct was observed through the whole solemnity, and an attention and order so remarkable as to excite the public acknowledgment of a respectable Minister of the Society, who delivered an excellent discourse upon the awful subject of the day.

In the first edition of this work it was stated in a note that the "burying-ground" in which Mr. Galton's remains were interred, was "a small grave-yard in Monmouth Street, close to the Blue Coat School, which was absorbed by the Great Western Railway." Mr. Charles Dickenson Sturge has since informed me that this was a mistake. He says, "the Galtons were buried, not in Monmouth

Street, but in Bull Street, before the present Quakers' Meeting House. The grave-yard in Monmouth Street was closed about 1750, except for members of families having vaults, such as Lloyd, Pemberton, Hadley, Williams, and Robinson."

In a subsequent communication, Mr. Sturge supplied me with the following interesting information on the Quakers in Birmingham. As early as 1681 the Society of Friends purchased a house in Ladyfield, at the side of Colmore's Lane, leading to Edgbaston (afterwards Bull Lane, now Monmouth Street), for a place of worship. In 1702, John Pemberton, of Bennett's Hill, sold part of the Priory Close to Thomas Kemsey timberman, reserving, however, the site of the Friends' Meeting House. The speculation does not appear to have been a profitable one, as in 1705, the mortgagees sold two houses in Bull Street for £260, which in 1722 were re-sold for £190; in 1778 their value had again advanced to £500.

In 1710 the Square was still unfinished, and a portion of it sold for £900 by the mortgagees, and in 1714 one of the houses was sold for £2,600, even with the then value of money. The Old Square houses must have cost from £700 to £800 each. The property does not seem to have recovered its value very rapidly, as we find that in 1791 another of the houses sold for £420, but with some additions, its value in 1805 had risen to £970, in 1843 to £1,330, and in 1853 to £2,515.

The Meeting House in Monmouth Street was pulled down in 1726, the grave-yard being still occasionally used, though after the middle of the century, as has been already stated, only for the relations of those already interred there, or for the possessors of brick graves.

The Meeting House in Bull Street was built between 1702 and 1714; enlarged in 1778, by the removal of an adjacent house to make a lobby. In 1845 another house was removed to make way for a fresh lobby, the whole being pulled down in 1856, when the present one was erected.

In an account of the General Hospital, we have alluded to the Annual Collections made at all the churches and chapels in aid of the funds of our local charities. The plan is so simple, and the money which it produces so easily obtained, and so large in the aggregate

amount, that people have wondered why such a proposal was not made earlier. It was; but the time was not ripe for its adoption. It remained unnoticed for years, and it was as late as 1859 before we resorted to a method which, in nine years, has produced the sum of £33,398 14s. 4d. for the various hospitals. In 1799, however, a wise and far-seeing man recommended the adoption of this very plan to the governors of the General Hospital. On the 23rd of September, we read in the *Gazette*:—"A correspondent, who signs himself Philanthropos, recommends to the Governors of the Hospital, as an augmentation to its resources, and as contributing to increase the number of annual subscribers, *that charity sermons be annually preached in all the churches and chapels of whatever description within the county*, for its benefit. This plan, he observes, has been attended with great advantage to the Nottingham and Derby Infirmaries." It will be seen that this correspondent recommended that the collection should be made throughout the county; and that the plan had been successfully adopted at Nottingham and Derby.

The efforts made to decrease the distress which now afflicted the mass of the nation, speak well for the humanity of the times. The question of providing bread was one of the most important which engaged the attention of the authorities. The following quotation shows the method which they adopted for this purpose:—

December 2nd, 1799.—We refer our readers to the advertisement of our Magistrates, recommending the use of no other than *household bread;* and we also acquaint the public, that there is a sort of bread not commonly made in this town, which seems calculated, to diminish the consumption of wheat, and to afford, at a cheaper rate, a food equally wholesome and palatable with that which is now found in Birmingham. Though the use of this kind of bread has been encouraged by an Act of the Legislature, it does not appear to be generally known; we, therefore, give the following abstract from the Act, and recommend bakers to make some of the bread; many persons will prefer it from taste, and many from œconomy. By the 36th Geo. 3., cap. 22, it is enacted that it shall be lawful to make and sell peck loaves, half-peck loaves, quartern loaves, and half-quartern loaves, made of the whole produce of the wheat, deducting only five pounds weight of bran per bushel, or made of any sort of wheaten flour, mixed with barley, rye, oats, buck wheat, Indian corn, pease, beans, rice, or any other grain, or with potatoes, in such proportion, and at such prices, as the seller shall think proper.

The baker will be entitled to charge his own price for this article, but the competition which must always exist amongst so large a number of tradesmen as exercise this business in Birmingham, will probably exclude any mischief from this circumstance,

and the statute has guarded against any other imposition by ascertaining the weight of these loaves, and providing that the bakers shall affix a paper in their shops, specifying the sorts and proportions of the mixture composing each sort of bread, with corresponding marks on the loaves. If the bread sold under the authority of this act have any mixture not denoted by the mark and paper, or if it be deficient in weight, the baker will incur a penalty. The peck loaf (whatever it be composed of) is to weigh, when well baked 17lb. 6oz. Avoirdupois weight, and the other loaves in proportion.

Soup-shops were again opened for the relief of the poor, and the recipe given in the following extract will be read with interest :—

December 9, 1799.—The benevolent example of opening public soup shops for the poor (originally set by the subscribers in this town), we are happy to learn is now followed in the metropolis, and every considerable place in the kingdom; and the advertisements in this paper from the Public Office, and the Winter Benevolent Society, must be regarded by the affluent with pleasure, and by the poor with gratitude.

The following are the Ingredients and Recipe for making the Soup for the Poor, published by the Committee in this Town :—

		Gallons 15	50	100	120	200	240	250
Beef	lbs.	25	30	60	72	120	144	150
Beef Cheeks	No.	1	1½	2½	2½	5	5½	6
Legs of Beef	No.	1	1½	2½	3	5	6	6
Carolina Rice, ground...	lbs.	7½	15	30	36	60	72	75
Peas, white ...	...quarts	6	12	24	28	40	58	60
Onions	lbs.	3¼	6¼	13	16	26	32	33½
Pepper, Cayenne ...	oz.	¼	½	1	1¼	2	2½	3
Black Pepper	oz.	1½	3	6	7¼	12	14½	15
Ginger, powdered ...	oz.	½	1	2	2¼	4	4½	5
Salt	lbs.	2½	3¾	7½	9	15	18	18
Ox's Melt or Lungs ...	No.		½	1	1½	2	3	3
Carrots	lbs.	1¾	3½	7	8¾	14	17	17½
Leeks	lbs.	1¼	2½	5	6	10	12	12½
Celery, with the tops ...	lbs.	1	2	4	5½	8	10	10½
Mint, dried	oz.	½	1	1½	1½	2	2½	2½

Here is a paragraph which affords a curious illustration of the dearth of food :—

December 16, 1799.—We are requested by a Correspondent to inform our readers, that hawthorn berries, which are this winter in such uncommon abundance, have been found very fattening for pigs. It will be a great saving of grain to farmers, and relief to the indigent, to employ poor children to collect the berries at 6d. a strike.

This year closed, like so many of its predecessors, with a proposal for another useful work of charity :—

December 30, 1799.—We are happy to learn that several Gentlemen of this town have it in contemplation to bring forward immediately a plan for a Benefit Society, or Sick Club, on a large scale. This object we understand to be, to cut off the abuses and to prevent the frauds so frequently complained of on the plans now generally adopted, and

to secure to the honest and industrious, at the smallest possible expence to themselves, an adequate support in sickness, and a certain prospect of comfortable assistance in old age. The gentlemen who propose this measure, intend to subscribe, and to solicit subscriptions from others, in order that the Funds of the Society may better afford ample relief to neeessitous members in sickness.

Early in January a meeting was held for the purpose of organising the Society, and a plan presented for that purpose was agreed to :—

PUBLIC OFFICE.

January 21, 1800.—At a numerous and respectable Meeting of the Friends of the intended General Provident Society, for the Relief of the Indigent Sick and the Assistance of Old Age, within the Parish of Birmingham, Wm. Gilby, M.D., in the chair; the following address to the Public, explanatory of their Design, was read and unanimously agreed to.

The Friends of this measure wish distinctly to explain their Views to the Public. They have attentively considered the Plans in General Use in this Town, and though they pretend not to deny that Good is done by them, they are nevertheless convinced that they are capable of very essential Improvements. The Manner of eonducting them is too expensive, supposing the whole sum left and spent by each Member were only Fourpence per Month. On the Plan now proposed, the Expenditure will be confined to the necessary Expenses of Management together with a Place suitable for transacting the Business of the whole Society.

By this Regulation, it is presumed, a material advantage will arise in Point of Economy.

The general Practice of *drawing out, or dividing annually*, is in their opinion, upon the whole, improvident, and even ruinous. For though it may answer while a Society continues young and healthy, and the claims on the Box are consequently few; in the course of a very few years, circumstances in these Respects will change, and this change will be seriously felt. In Proportion as the Members grow old, younger Men will be discouraged from entering; and the Sick Claims may reasonably be expected to increase, while the Means of supporting them are constantly diminishing. The Consequence will be, that a Man, after contributing to his Club the greater part of his Life, will have the cruel disappointment of seeing it broken up (and perhaps on his very Account) at the Period when, from Age, Infirmity, or Sickness, he looked to it for Support. This has already been the case in a number of very Distressing Instances.

On the Plan of a Permanent Fund, supported in part by Honorary Members, this serious Evil cannot easily happen. The Experiment has been made upon a large and respectable scale at Sheffield, and has hitherto succeeded. In this view the present plan offers a decided Advantage in Point of Security.

The Scheme for assisting Old Age after a certain Period, and when the Funds shall exceed a certain Amount, is a Point which the Promoters of this Measure have greatly at heart. It is well known, that the best exertions of working Men do not in general enable them to make an adequate Provision for old age, and especially when their Families are large; and it is equally understood, by every Man of Principle and of Feeling, that nothing tends more to unstring the Nerve of honest exertion, to impair the Spirits and break up the Health, than the dismal, but too certain Prospect of old age subsisting on a precarious Support, or driven to that last Resort of virtuous

Indigence, a Parish Workhouse! But, as Sick Clubs are generally conducted in Birmingham, this melancholy Prospect can neither be prevented nor effectually relieved.

Besides, they indulge the hope, that this Plan, if extensively patronised and conducted with Perseverance and Spirit, must eventually diminish our Parochial Burdens. The impression with which a Man will act under such Circumstances, will easily be conceived. He will feel that he possesses both the Motives and the Means of providing for himself against that Period, when, without such Help, he must in all Probability become Burdensome to the Parish. This very consideration will produce and cherish a Sense of Character which will ever restrain an honest Mind from becoming (without the clearest necessity) a Burden to others.

Whether Sick Clubs, as they are now managed, do upon the whole increase or diminish our Poor's Rate, may be fairly questioned. That many Persons are relieved by them is certain, but when the Temptations to Drinking, Idleness, and Extravagance, are taken into the Account, it will too generally be found that the Distresses brought upon poor Families by these Excesses, will more than counterbalance their good effects to the Parish. And here the advantage of the present Plan must be manifest. By making sound Morals not only a necessary Term of Admission, but of continuance in the Society, the Motives to a regular and virtuous Conduct are strengthened and increased; and by withdrawing the Management from Public Houses, the Temptation to Intemperance, and Vice in general, so commonly destructive on the present Plans, will in a still greater Proportion be diminished.

Thus, by uniting at a small Expence, and with little Trouble, the generous Exertions of the Opulent with the prudent Economy and grateful Endeavours of their less fortunate Neighbours, the most important Advantages will be realised. Sickness and Old Age will find a certain Relief. Public Morals will be better guarded and improved. The Rich will find their labours more than repaid by the Increase of public Happiness, and the gradual Diminution of their Parish Levies; and the Poor, benefited by their Generosity, *will better and more thankfully perceive the Wisdom of those Distinctions above them, which they feel do exist for their Good.*

The Society was formed, and was taken up with such energy by the well-to-do, that on June 30 we read :—

It gives us much satisfaction to hear that the honorary members of the General Provident Society, instituted in this town for the Relief of the indigent sick, and for the assistance of old age, already amount to upwards of 500, and as each of these honorary members subscribes twelve shillings annually, without being entitled to receive any relief from the fund, which is to be applied solely to the use of the receiving members, we are persuaded that when the plan is generally known, it must be very much approved of and adopted by those inhabitants who wish to be members of a society which will protect them in sickness and old age, and entitle them to medical attendance, and medicines prepared from drugs of the best quality, free of any expense.

The distress at this time was, however, too great for even the most active benevolence to relieve. Bread riots occurred at many places in the kingdom; at Birmingham the women took the lead, and gave the first indication of a feeling which was afterwards to display itself in renewed acts of violence and riot. On February 17 we read :—

In our Market, on Thursday, an attempt was made by some women and boys (for we must do the men the justice to say they took no part in the disgraceful proceedings) to create a riot in consequence of the price of potatoes. The disturbance, however, was soon put an end to; and we have the authority of the Magistrates to say, that every protection will be given to persons who bring provisions for the regular supply of the town; and that the laws shall be most strictly enforced against every one who shall dare to insult or break them.

This was followed on March 17 by the announcement that "the Overseers of the Poor of this town, from the unexampled increase of the expence of the poor at the present period, are compelled to call for a double levy."

All that active charity could do to relieve the wants of the poor was done. Soup-shops were opened; bread was sold to them below the market price, and a collection was made in all the churches and chapels of the town in aid of the fund. The following is a list of the various amounts contributed by each place of worship :—

	£	s.	d.
St. Martin's	13	12	2¼
St Philip's	44	16	11¼
St. Mary's Chapel	45	0	0
St. Paul's ditto	13	4	7½
Deritend ditto	6	9	3
Ashted ditto	1	8	2
Friends' Meeting, Bull Street	40	4	2
Union Meeting-house	35	4	3¼
Old ditto	15	2	4½
Catholic Chapel	7	9	9½
Carr's Lane Meeting	14	4	3
Bond-street ditto	8	14	0
Cannon-street ditto	4	15	7¼
Bartholomew-street ditto	2	1	0
Lady Well Chapel	1	8	7½
Oxford-street Meeting	0	4	3
Bartholomew's Chapel	3	6	5½
King-street Meeting	3	17	6
Paradise-street ditto	2	9	0
Coleshill-street ditto Bradford-street ditto Cherry-street ditto	6	17	0
	£270	9	5½

The popular discontent was very great. On May 5 the *Gazette* contained reports of acts of violence committed in various neighbouring

towns, followed by the record of a riot in our own. This is the contemporary account :—

May 5, 1800.—To the above statements we are sorry to be under the necessity of adding, that some symptoms of riot shewed themselves in *this Town* on Thursday last. A number of misguided persons assembled in the evening, and proceeded to break the windows of several of the principal millers and bakers, and to commit other acts of violence. The Loyal Birmingham Light Horse Volunteers, and the Birmingham Loyal Association assembled with their usual promptness and spirit, and Captain Arden most obligingly called out Lieutenant Colonel Legge's Troop of Warwickshire Yeomanry, all of whom remained under arms the greatest part of the night, and by their timely exertions the depredators were prevented from pursuing their designs, and the peace of the town was restored.

A similar disposition having manifested itself on Friday, the Magistrates thought it necessary again to request the assistance of the troops ; and patrols of horse and foot were distributed through the principal streets of the town, in the evening, to prevent any tumultuous assemblage of disorderly and evil-disposed persons ; and we are happy to say, that in consequence of the most perfect order and tranquillity was preserved. Intelligence being, however, received that a numerous body of rioters were gone to a respectable farmer's in the neighbourhood, threatening to burn his corn ricks, and do other injury, part of the troops were immediately despatched in pursuit of them, and came up just in time to prevent the execution of their purpose. More than thirty of the ringleaders were taken into custody, and are now in prison. We sincerely hope examples will be made, to deter others from such weak and wicked designs. It is really surprising that any one can be so ignorant as to suppose that to destroy corn is the way to reduce the price, or that to prevent bakers from carrying on their trades can be a means of making bread more plentiful.

On Saturday every thing was perfectly quiet, the Peace Officers most actively preventing all attempts of the evil disposed to assemble in bodies in the streets—but the Yeomanry and Volunteers were all in readiness, had it been necessary to call them out; and the Earl of Aylesford, Colonel of the Regiment, with that anxiety which he invariably manifests for the prosperity of the County, and preservation of its peace, came in the evening with his own troop of Yeomanry, from Meriden, to afford any assistance that might be requisite. The town is also indebted to the Officers and men of the Inniskillin Dragoons, in our Barracks, for every aid they had the power of affording. To our Magistrates, Constables, &c., our obligations are infinite.

The bakers of the town returned their "sincere Thanks to the Magistrates and the Gentlemen of the Yeomanry and Light Horse Volunteers, and the Infantry Volunteers, for their Vigilance in dispersing the Mob, and preventing them attempting to do them any Injury on Friday night last."

Next we read :—

In this Town, at Wolverhampton, Stourbridge, and throughout all this and the adjoining counties, the principal people are adopting every means to supply the markets

and relieve the distresses of the people. Wheat has been retailed at 15s., and barley at 8s. the bushel. On Friday, Mr. John Wheeley,* and Mr. Harrison, of Edgbaston, sold at their own houses, to poor people, nearly two hundred bushels of potatoes, at 8d. per peck; and on Saturday, Mr. Samuel Wheeley brought also a large quantity to market, which he retailed at 10d. per peck. We trust the poor will show by their peaceful conduct, a proper and grateful sense of this liberal disposition in the opulent, and those who have the means to relieve their wants.

And on the same day it was stated "that several very respectable families in this town and neighbourhood have resolved not to purchase any lamb, nor to suffer any to be consumed in their houses until Midsummer next."

The King was as popular as ever, and this year an attempt on his life produced a display of loyalty which had never been surpassed in its enthusiastic delight. Mr. Massey thus records the event:—"One of those attempts which are so frequently made, but so rarely with success, on the lives of kings and rulers, called forth a new demonstration of loyalty and personal regard for the sovereign, which was not without significance and value at this season. The King, in accordance with many good English customs, his observance of which went far to endear him to the people, frequently attended the two great theatres, where the matchless productions of the English stage were represented by actors worthy of their vocation. On the 15th of May their Majesties went to Drury Lane Theatre. The King had no sooner entered the box, and advanced to the front to acknowledge the welcome with which he was usually received, than a pistol was discharged at him by a man who sprung up on a bench in the pit. Happily a person near had seen the movement in time to catch the assassin's arm, just as the trigger was pulled. It thus happened that of two large balls with which the pistol was charged, one struck the wainscot a foot and a half above the King's head, and the other passed through the curtain some inches higher. The King, who saw the flash and heard the report, turned to Lord Chesterfield, the Master of the Horse, and said, 'There is a pistol fired; there may be another; stop the Queen.' He himself stood firm, and looked round the house with a composure very different from the hurry which usually marked his demeanour. When the Queen advanced in alarm, he desired her to

* In Wheeley's Lane, Edgbaston.

stay a moment—'there was a squib,' said her Majesty, 'I heard the word pistol, and the report!' 'Squib or pistol,' answered the King, 'the danger is now over, and you may come forward and make your courtesy.' In a few seconds there was an awful silence, until the audience were assured that the King was unhurt. Then burst forth cries of 'Seize the traitor; tear him to pieces.' In the midst of the uproar the stage manager came forward and announced that the man who fired the shot was in custody. He had been dragged over the barrier which separated the orchestra from the pit, and hurried to the back of the stage to protect him from the rage of the spectators. The curtain then drew up; but the performance was not suffered to commence until the excited feelings of the audience had found relief in the Royal Anthem being sung in chorus by the whole company."* The man's name was James Hadfield. He was a working silversmith, and a discharged trooper from the Fifteenth Light Dragoons. He was insane, and at the trial was acquitted and detained in custody. There was no limit to the enthusiasm with which this escape was welcomed. Addresses were sent to the King from every town. Birmingham sent the following :—

June 2nd, 1800.—To the King's Most Excellent Majesty. The humble Address of the Inhabitants of the Town of Birmingham.

Most Gracious Sovereign,—We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Inhabitants of the Town of Birmingham, approach your Majesty with the warmest sentiments of attachment to your Majesty's Person and Government.

In the whole course of your Majesty's reign, your subjects have experienced every blessing which impartial justice and affection could dispense; and we therefore grieve to think that any mind could be found so depraved and void of reason, as to meditate the design of striking at your life.

At the same time we deplore the malignity of such an attempt, we look with admiration on that firmness displayed by your Majesty, which, in the moment of danger, could only result from conscious virtue and the purest integrity.

SIRE,—We shall ever feel the sincerest gratitude for that watchful care and signal interposition of Divine Providence manifested on this occasion; and, permit us to add our most fervent prayers, that your reign may continue long and prosperous over a free, happy, and united people, and that your latter days may be crowned with uninterrupted harmony and peace. B. S. HEATON, High Bailiff.

The Volunteers and the soldiers had a field day to celebrate the King's escape :—

* A History of England during the Reign of George the Third. By William Massey, M.P., v. iv., pp. 489-90-91.

All the regulars in the town, will, we understand, unite with the Troop of Volunteer Light Horse (joined by the Handsworth Cavalry), and regiment of Infantry of this place, on Wednesday next, in paying the usual honours of the day, and in testifying in the only public manner, as military bodies, they properly can, their joy upon their beloved Sovereign's late escape. The line will be formed in New Street, at ten o'clock in the Morning, and proceed thence to Birmingham Heath.

Medals were struck in commemoration of the happy event. On the same day on which the address appeared this announcement was made :—

June 2nd, 1800.—We are informed that an emblematical MEDAL of excellent Workmanship, on the King's happy escape, designed and engraved by two eminent Artists of this Town, is this day published by Mr. Kempson.*

The King's birthday was on June 4th, and it was kept this year with even more than the usual rejoicings. The people for a time forgot their distress, and gave themselves up to festivity and loyal displays. Birmingham was not behind other towns in their manifestations; and this is how she kept

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

June 9, 1800.—On Wednesday last, in this Town, as well as in every other place in the neighbourhood, the utmost eagerness prevailed throughout all ranks of people to welcome the anniversary of a beloved MONARCH'S birth. The morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells, firing of guns, &c., and at half-past Ten o'clock the Inniskillin Dragoons, in two squadrons, the Birmingham Light Horse Volunteers, with the Handsworth Cavalry, formed into one squadron, and the whole regiment of the Loyal Birmingham Association, were drawn up in New-street, from whence they marched to Birmingham Heath, where being again formed, Lieutenant Colonel Morden, accompanied by his Staff, rode down the line. After the accustomed salutes, and passing the Colonel in review, the Cavalry performed the sword exercise, the Infantry, the manual and platoon. A few manœuvres (the principal intended being omitted in consequence of the unfavourableness of the weather) were then gone through, and the Regiment having fired several rounds in companies, and lastly in vollies, with a correctness which would have done credit to veterans, the respective corps returned from the Heath in the like order in which they went, and dismissed in New-street. Public dinners were provided at the Hotel, Shakespear Tavern, and other Inns, and the Volunteers of the Town were honoured with the company of Lieut. Colonel Morden, Lieut. Colonels O'Donovan and Fletcher, and the other Officers of the Inniskillins, the Recruiting Officers in the place, the Magistrates, &c., &c., and the afternoon was spent with the greatest hilarity and most convivial loyalty. The spectators on the ground were numerous, notwithstanding the unfavourable weather.

We have the pleasure to state that Colonel Morden has, in letters to the Commanding Officers of the Associated Corps, requested the Volunteers "to accept his particular Thanks, with the assurance of his having been highly gratified at their military and soldier-like appearance on this day."

* Mr. Kempson was an eminent die-sinker and medallist of the town; he produced a large number of the "tokens" issued by the Workhouse and private individuals.

All this illumination, ringing of bells, firing of guns and reviewing of troops, did not, however, banish the sufferings of the people. One of the great difficulties of the time was that of

FORESTALLING, INGROSSING, AND REGRATING.

August 25, 1800.—The Committee appointed at a Meeting of the Inhabitants of Birmingham, for preventing Forestalling, Ingrossing, and Regrating in the town and Neighbourhood, give Notice, that the Constables of the Town will receive informations against Persons guilty of the above-mentioned offences, and the proper Rewards will be paid on conviction; and in order that no one may plead Ignorance, it is thought proper to subjoin the following clear Definitions of the Offences.

Whosoever shall buy, or cause to be bought, any Merchandize, Victual, or any other Thing whatsoever, coming by Land or by Water toward any Market or Fair to be sold in the same, or coming toward any City, Port, Haven, Creek or Road, from any Parts beyond the Sea to be sold; or may make any Bargain, Contract, or Promise, for the having or buying the same, or any part thereof, so coming as is aforesaid, before the said Merchandize, Victuals, or other Things shall be in the Market, Fair, City, Port, Haven, Creek, or Road, ready to be sold, or shall make any Motion by Word, Letter, Message, or otherwise, to any Person for the Inhancing of the Price, or dearer selling any of the Things above-mentioned; or else dissuade, move, or stir any Persons coming to the Market, or Fair, to abstain or forbear to bring or convey any of the Things above rehearsed to any Market, Fair, City, Port, Haven, Creek or Road, to be sold as aforesaid, shall be deemed a forestaller.

Whosoever shall ingross, or get into his Hands, by buying, contracting, or promise taking, other than by Demise, Grant or Lease of Land or Tythe, any Corn growing in the fields, or any other Corn or Grain, Butter, Cheese, Fish, or other dead Victuals whatsoever to the Intent to sell the same again, shall be deemed an unlawful ingrosser.

And whosoever shall by any Means regrate, obtain, or get into his Hands or Possession, in a Fair or Market, any Corn, Wine, Fish, Butter, Cheese, Candles, Tallow, Sheep, Lambs, Calves, Swine, Pigs, Geese, Capons, Hens, Chickens, Pigeons, Conies, or other dead Victual whatsoever, that shall be brought to any Fair or Market to be sold, and do sell the same again in any Fair or Market holden or kept in the same Place, or in any other Fair or Market within four miles thereof, shall be deemed a Regrater.—Birmingham, August 21, 1800.

Amidst all these troubles the inhabitants were not neglectful of their civic duties, and the following interesting document gives an account of what it was now proposed to do for the improvement of the town:—

Birmingham, August 16th, 1800.—NOTICE is hereby given, that application is intended to be made, next Session of Parliament, for leave to bring in a Bill for the better Regulation and Improvement of the Town of Birmingham, the Heads of which are as follows, (viz.):—

1. That the present Number of Commissioners be extended to 100: such Commissioners as shall not attend twice in every Year to be disqualified, unless prevented by Absence from Home, Illness, or other sufficient Cause, and until re-elected at future Meetings of the Commissioners; any seven of them to act in all cases.

2. Any Inhabitant, whether rated or not, to be admitted Evidence in all cases.

3. The Commissioners to have Power to purchase and remove the Welch Cross, Joseph Knight (the Glover's) House, and the House adjoining, and also the Houses now or lately occupied by — Boden and — Lawson, all the Houses now or late in the occupation of Messrs. May, Tippin, Mole, and Docker, with the Buildings adjoining to Spiceal street, and all the Shambles, with the Dwelling Houses belonging thereto, as far up as where the Old Cross stood, and the Houses called the Round-about Houses, the Swan Alley at the upper End of Worcester-street, leading into New-street, the lower End of Worcester-street, leading into Edgbaston-street, and the lower Parts of Moor-street.

4. The Commissioners to have Power to increase the present Rate, not exceeding Six-pence in the Pound, upon all Premises under the Value of 20*l.* per annum, and Nine-pence in the Pound upwards; and that no House whatsoever to be excused from the Rate without the consent of the Commissioners.

5. The Commissioners to have Power to borrow any Sum not exceeding 5,000*l.*

6. The Commissioners to have Power to improve every Opportunity of setting back any Houses or other Buildings that now project beyond the regular Line of any Street or Range of Building, whenever such House or other Building shall be taken down to be re-built; Satisfaction to be made to the Owners.

7. In all new Streets, and the present unpaved Streets, the Builders and Owners of Houses, and the Owners of Land adjoining such Streets, whenever three-fourths of any such Streets shall be built upon, to be obliged to pave the Square of their Houses or Land into the Middle of such Street, under the Direction of the Commissioners; and all such new Streets, when paved, to be exempt from paying Highway Levies for five Years from that Period; a Proviso, that when Owners of Lands adjoining such Street have only Life Estates in such Land, their Executors may compel the next succeeding Owner of such Land to reimburse the Expense.

8. Previous to any Street being built upon, proper Notice to be given to the Commissioners, when they shall send a Surveyor to adjust and settle the Level of the said Street, which shall be conformed to by every Person who shall erect any Building within the Limits of the said Street.

9. All Bulks, Bulk Sashes, and Projections erected Prior to the first Act obtained by the Commissioners, to be subject to the same Powers as those erected subsequent to the passing of the said Act. Half the Expence of removing such Bulk, Bulk Sashes, &c., to be paid by the Commissioners, provided such Half shall not exceed in any case the Sum of Fifty Shillings.

10. No Coach or Chaise, without Horses, to stand in any Street, except they take up or set down a Loading at the House or Warehouse of a Merchant, Manufacturer or Shop-keeper, unconnected with any such Stage Waggon or Stage Cart. Chaining Waggons, Carts, Chaises, Coaches, or other Carriages to be considered as taking them to the Pound. To regulate the Manner of all Waggons, Carts, and all other Carriages loading and unloading, and if passing along the Streets.

11. All Manure to be taken away by Ten o'clock in the Morning.

12. The Owners of Hackney Coaches to be put under Regulations similar to those in London.

13. The Boundaries of the Town to be fixed from Time to Time by the Commissioners, and Lamps to extend, and the Rates to be collected to the utmost Parts of such Boundaries.

14. All Coals and Potatoes to be sold by the Weight of 120 Pounds to the Hundred, under the Penalty of 10s.

15. All Meat to be weighed by Scales only.

WILLIAM SMITH, Clerk to the Commissioners.

But this, and other good works, were again interrupted by

RIOTS.

September 15, 1800.—We lament that we are under the painful necessity of recording the irregular behaviour of the populace in this town, during the last week.

On Monday morning, in consequence of the very high price of flour and bread, great agitation was visible in the town, and a small crowd of people meeting with a well-known dealer in corn, assaulted and pursued him till he took refuge in an inn in Bull-street, from whence, after a confinement of several hours, he was liberated by Mr. Millward, one of our peace officers. A large assemblage of persons being now formed, fears were entertained of further outrages, and the event too fully justified those apprehensions.

At night a very general attack was made upon the shops of the bakers and mealmen; the mob assumed the right of disposing of the bread at reduced prices, and in some instances, the unprincipled rabble most dishonestly seized quantities of flour, bread, and whatever else they could purloin, at the same time wantonly breaking the windows and doors of the shops of several houses.

The civil power, however, calling to their aid a detachment of the 17th Light Dragoons, quartered in our Barracks, and a party of the Birmingham Light Horse, a stop was put, for that night, to further depredations.

Tuesday morning commenced with considerable anxiety and alarm. The misguided mob renewed their attack on the Steam Mill of Mr. Pickard, in Snow Hill, and fearful that they would effect their avowed purpose of breaking in, before proper assistance could be procured, the persons within fired upon them, and, we are sorry to add, four persons were dangerously wounded, one of whom is since dead.

The Magistrates were then applied to, and as soon as possible after hastened to the spot with a troop of the 17th Light Dragoons, under the command of Colonel Grey, when, having read the riot act, they succeeded in checking the sanguine and vindictive disposition of the multitude; the Magistrates after placing a guard over the premises, returned to Head Quarters, at the Shakespeare, and immediately the bugle of the Loyal Birmingham Light Horse Volunteers sounded, and the drums of the Birmingham Loyal Association beat to arms, and these corps, with Lieutenant Goodall and Captain Lycett at their head, were very soon at Head Quarters; messengers were also instantly dispatched to the Earl of Aylesford, and Mr. Legge, for their Troops of Yeomanry Cavalry; and every proper measure being used to stop the torrent of mischief, and protect the peaceable inhabitants, we have the happiness to say their efforts were not in vain.

Mr. Legge's troop very speedily arrived, and that of the Earl of Aylesford reached town about ten o'clock, which, considering the few hours' notice, and the distance at which the members of the troops reside from each other, astonished every one. Thus reinforced, the Magistrates very judiciously divided the town into eleven districts, and patrols of horse and foot being stationed in each, the town was kept perfectly quiet.

On Wednesday evening the alarm became still more serious;—at half-past seven, a multitude of people assembled, and in a few minutes after the shops of Mr. Madely were discovered to be on fire. This, it since appears, was occasioned by accident; but happening at such a time, it made a very serious impression. The same steps were instantly taken as on the preceding night. The Military were assembled, and every district patroled, and by these vigilant efforts all has been kept quiet to the present hour; —and to the prudent and humane, as well as firm means taken by the Magistrates, we have to congratulate our readers that not a drop of blood has been spilled by the military, except in one instance, where, at the fire, a man's nose was cut by accident. We now can have no doubt but that all will remain perfectly quiet—for from the measures taken, and the favourableness of the weather, bread must necessarily very soon be cheaper, the average price of wheat during the last week being *fourteen shillings* per bushel.

The town is very much indebted to the unwearied vigilance of the Magistrates, and to the zealous and prompt assistance of the Earl of Aylesford and Mr. Legge, and their respective troops of Yeomanry Cavalry, to Colonel Grey and the 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons, to Lord Brooke and Major Breynton, who joined their regiment upon the first report of disturbance, and in general to the Loyal Birmingham Light Horse Volunteers, the Birmingham Loyal Association, and the Constables, for their alacrity and exertions in protecting the public peace.

During the riots, a man, whose name is Fish, was apprehended attempting to set fire to Mr. Pickard's mill, and he is to take his trial at the next Assizes. Several others were apprehended for breaking the peace—some of whom were discharged, giving security for their good behaviour, and others are still in custody.

A man of the name of Purcell is also apprehended for selling caricature prints of an inflammatory and dangerous nature.

September 15, 1800.—In consequence of the disturbances in this Town, the following Hand Bills were circulated during the Week—some Anonymous, some by the Magistrates, and some by our old Acquaintance, John Nott; which, as they have all a Tendency to do Good, we give them in the Order in which they came out, for the Information of such Persons that are in the Habit of frequenting the Market, who will perceive that their Persons and Property will be held sacred, and all Infractions of the Peace severely punished.

COPIES OF THE HAND BILLS.

September 9, 1800.—The Bakers are not to blame! and why should the Innocent suffer for the Guilty? If there are any Persons to blame, it is the Forestaller and Regrater; and to defeat their Purposes, the most vigorous Measures are every where pursuing; but Rome was not built in a Day. However, no one has a Right to take the Law into his own Hands. Be peaceable and do your Duty, and doubt not but that very soon all will be well. There is nothing adds so much to the Distresses of the Poor as Rioting. It generally keeps Provisions from Market, and often ends in Loss of Life and the greatest Misery. Let, therefore, every one keep in his own House, which is, in this happy Country, his Castle, and in which he has a Right to defend himself. Then let him keep there, and no Harm can come *to* him, and a little Time, with the Plans that are now pursuing, will doubtless bring all Things right.

Birmingham, September 9th, 1800.—The Magistrates hereby earnestly recommend all Manner of Persons to keep within their Houses until the Peace of the Town is perfectly restored.

W. VILLIERS. GEO. SIMCOX,
W. HICKS, THEO. PRICE.

My dear Brother Artificers,—My Advice is now, as it always has been upon such occasions, to keep out of Harm's Way.

Now you see several Persons have been shot at the Mill. Many say they were wantonly fired upon; if so, the Laws of the Country (which protect the Poor and Rich alike) will punish the offenders. At the same Time we all know that a Man's House is his Castle, and that every Man has a Right to defend himself if attack'd. However, let us suspend our Judgment a little while; for at present, I am told none of the shot Persons are dead. If any of them do die, a Jury and the Coroner will sit upon the Body, and we shall hear what that Jury says. Let us, in the mean Time, pray that none of them may die; and, above all, let us keep every one of us in our own Houses.

Yours ever,

September 9, 1800. JOB NOTT.

The Magistrates whose Duty it is to restore the Peace of the Town, do hereby inform the Inhabitants that his Majesty's Proclamation has been read more than an hour; and, therefore, all Persons who are now found unlawfully assembled together in any of the Streets, to the Number of twelve, although no Outrage is committed, are liable to be apprehended and subject to the Pains and Penalties of the Riot Act; they, therefore, again most earnestly recommend all Persons to keep within their Houses, and to take especial Care that their Apprentices, Children, and Servants are kept within.

Shakespear Tavern, Tuesday, September 9, 1800. One o'clock p.m.

September 10, 1800.—The Magistrates acting for the town and Neighbourhood of Birmingham, lamenting the mischievous Consequences which result from the riotous proceedings of a misguided Populace, who thereby increase the Evil of which they complain, while they feel it to be their indispensable Duty to enforce Obedience to the Laws of their Country, cannot be insensible to the Distresses of the Poor, occasioned by the present uncommonly high Price of Corn, and desirous of doing every Thing in their Power to alleviate those Distresses, earnestly recommend to all Gentlemen of Landed Property to use their Influence with their Neighbours and Tenants to induce them to send what Corn they have immediately to Market, and to sell it to Millers and Bakers, and that at such a reasonable Rate as to enable them to supply the Poor with Bread on moderate Terms. They do also call upon all Farmers who may not be under the Influence of Landlords to step forward in manifesting a laudable Zeal for the Public Good, and Christian Compassion for the Wants of their indigent Fellow Creatures, by exerting themselves to get their Corn to Market, and disposing of it at a moderate Price.

The peaceable Inhabitants of the Town of Birmingham are struck with Horror at the deplorable Situation of a great Number of their Neighbours. Men who are guilty of no Crime, but being only the Sellers of the Necessaries of Life, are innocent of the Cause of the great Advance of them. A Mind not totally callous to all Sensibility must feel for the Sufferings of Men under an Alarm that their Property, and even their personal Safety, is not secure from one Hour to another.

Great as the Sufferings of the Poor may be, such Outrage only increases the Evil, with the Addition of Terror to every worthy Inhabitant. The Magistrates, with the Assistance of the principal Inhabitants, have for some Time been Taking every possible Method to reduce the Price of every Description of Provisions, and there was and is every Prospect of their Labours being crowned with Success; they, therefore, hope that every Inhabitant of the Town will in future remain in Peace and good Order; but should

any daring evil-disposed Persons, whose Purpose is Plunder, assemble in unlawful Numbers, and attempt to disturb the King's Peace, such Measures will be taken as will bring them to condign Punishment. Those, therefore, who have Nothing to gratify but an idle and a dangerous Curiosity, are earnestly requested to refrain from entering into any Appearance of an unlawful Assembly, as they not only countenance evil-disposed Persons, but may incur Punishment indiscriminately with the Guilty.

Birmingham, September 11, 1800.

To the Farmers who come to Birmingham Market.

Gentlemen, my Advice to you is, drop the Price of Wheat immediately—that my Betty and her Children, and all my poor Brother Artificers, whose distresses are great indeed, may partake of the Bounty of Providence.

We have great Cause to complain, though it grieves my Heart that Rioting should have taken place. What's more, if you should not fix a moderate Price to Day, it may lie upon your Hands, and you may be glad to take much less for it in a Month; for the Price will come down, that's certain. Don't you see how the Weather glass rises? and don't you know that four or five days will get all in?

And my further Advice is that I hope you will sell it to our Millers and Bakers, and such as won't sell it again out of our Town, and then we shall have Plenty at a moderate Price. At any Rate, don't sell it to Badgers, nor let them whisper in your Ears, and persuade you to raise the Market for their own Advantage. I say, hear none of their wicked Advice, for the Devil is at the Bottom of all such Advice; and what little you get in that Way will never prosper. God Almighty won't bless the Land of that Man who does any Thing to oppress the Poor, but sooner or later it will come Home to him, or to his Children after him; for what's got over the Devil's Back is sure to be spent under his Belly: so take my Advice, and be good Fellows, and let us have Plenty and Cheap. So no more at present, from your humble Servant,

September 11th, 1800. JOB NOTT.

To Farmers and others, who have Corn to Sell.

Public Office, September 11th, 1800.

The Magistrates earnestly recommend to such Persons who have Corn for Sale immediately to sell the same, at a moderate Price, to Millers and Bakers who will dispose of it to the Inhabitants of this Town and Neighbourhood, and not to sell it to any Persons who are likely to sell it again before it is manufactured into Flour. And with a View to the Conviction of any Persons guilty of enhancing the Price of Corn, or other Provisions in the Market, by offering a higher Price than required by the Seller, or by other undue Influence, they hereby offer a Reward of Ten Pounds, in Addition to any other Rewards offered by the Public.

Shakespeare Tavern, Eleven o'Clock, September 12, 1800.

At a Meeting held this Morning, B. S. Heaton, Esq., the High Bailiff, in the Chair;—We, the undersigned Inhabitants of the Town of Birmingham and the Hamlets of Deritend and Bordesley, anxious to preserve the Public Peace, and to protect the Markets, in Order that Provisions may be brought to Town, have ourselves accepted the Office of Special Constables for the above Purpose, and earnestly recommend our Neighbours to repair immediately to the Shakespeare Tavern, where the Magistrates are now sitting, and

will attend the whole of the Day, in Order to swear such Persons into that Office; and as the Exigency of the present Time requires every Exertion on the part of the Inhabitants, we hope and trust every well-disposed Person will immediately attend to enrol his Name.

[Signed by a great Number of Inhabitants.]

In the next paper it was stated, "that all riots and tumultuous assemblies in this town and neighbourhood have entirely ceased."

As one of the results of these bread riots, we read on October 13, that—

On Saturday, the 4th instant, Wm. Tonks, one of the unfortunate boys that was shot during the late riots in this town, died in our Infirmary, where he had lingered since the 9th of September. The Jury returned Verdict, Justifiable Homicide.

The condition of the nation at this disastrous period is painfully shown in the following extracts:—

Birmingham, December 20, 1800.

To Thomas Hadley, Esq., High Bailiff.

Sir,—His Majesty having issued a gracious Proclamation, recommending such of his subjects who have the Power to purchase other Provisions, to abstain as much as possible from the use of Bread, in order that the Poor may have less Difficulty in procuring that article, and it appearing to us that the good Effects to be expected can only be derived from Engagements entered into by the Inhabitants in every Town—We request that you will call a Meeting of the principal Inhabitants of this Town and Neighbourhood, to take the same into Consideration, to enter into such Resolutions as may be expressive of a dutiful acquiescence with his Majesty's gracious Recommendations, and most conducive to give it Effect.

Wm. Villiers,	Edward Palmer,
Wm. Hicks,	Wm. Smith,
Theodore Price,	Wm. Anderton,
George Simcox,	Wm. Walker,
Henry Clay,	Thomas Grundy,
Thomas Barker,	Rich. Pratchet.

Birmingham, December 26, 1800.—At a numerous and respectable Meeting of the principal Inhabitants of this Town and Neighbourhood, held at the Hotel pursuant to public Advertisement, for the Purpose of giving Effect to his Majesty's gracious Proclamation, recommending the strictest Economy and Frugality in the use of every species of Grain, but particularly Wheat; The High Bailiff in the Chair;

The following Resolutions were entered into by the Persons present, which they earnestly hope will be universally adopted by such of their Neighbours in Town and Country who have, through the Bounty of Providence, the means of procuring a plentiful Supply of every other kind of Food, the Sole Object of these Resolutions being to leave to the Poor and distressed Part of the Community those articles which are really necessary to their Comfort and Support, but which no Man of true Benevolence, who witnesses the present sufferings of his distressed Fellow Creatures, can desire to have at the Cost of one Moment's Want to the Poor and Indigent.

1. That in Conformity to His Majesty's gracious Proclamation we will, in our respective Families, observe the utmost possible Economy in the Use of all Articles of Grain, and in particular of Bread Corn, and in no Case suffer our Consumption to exceed one Quartern Loaf to each Person weekly, which is about ten Ounces per Day.

2. That we will abstain altogether from Pastry made with any other Flour than of Rice.

3. That in Order to lessen still farther the Consumption of Bread, we will abstain as much as possible from that of Cheese, which Article being a Necessary to the Poor, by this means may be obtained on much lower Terms than at present.

4. That we will, such of us as have horses, and especially those kept for Pleasure, restrict as much as possible the Consumption of Oats, and other Grain, in their maintenance.

5. That we will observe the preceding Resolutions for Nine Months from this Period, unless the Price of Wheat should be reduced to Ten Shillings the Bushel.

6. That as no salutary Effects can be expected to arise from the proposed Retrenchments, unless they are generally adopted by the Persons to whom they apply—it is the opinion of this Meeting, that if, contrary to their Hopes and Wishes, similar Measures should not be generally adopted throughout the Kingdom, it will be expedient to petition Parliament to pass a Law to restrict the Consumption of Bread in such manner as may be found fully sufficient to meet the Difficulties arising from the present Scarcity of Corn.

7. That Copies of these Resolutions, with the Names of the Subscribers, be hung up at the different Banks and Printers, throughout the Town, and that Twenty-four Gentlemen be appointed to wait upon such of their Neighbours as may be expected to subscribe them.

8. That the High Bailiff be desired to send Copies of these Resolutions to the different Noblemen and Gentlemen in the Neighbourhood, requesting their Concurrence and Support.

Thomas Hadley, Chairman.

The Thanks of the Meeting were voted to the Chairman, for his ready Acquiescence in calling the Meeting, and for his Attention to the Business of the Day.

And so closes the local annals of the year of suffering, 1800.

The year 1801 was also one of scarcity, suffering, and violence. The cry for peace was now loud and vehement. The state of Birmingham at this time will be gathered from the following advertisement, published in the assumed name of one who took an important part in, and had a great influence on the public life of the time—the "truly humorous" and plain-spoken Job Nott.

To the Birmingham Manufacturers.

April 6, 1801.—Brother Artificers,—The high Price of Provisions, and the Scantiness of Orders, grieves me to the Heart; and Rioting (which never did, or ever is likely to produce any lasting Change) grieves me sorely. Let me, then, as your true Friend, entreat you for the Sake of Ourselves, our Wives and our Children, to bear the Calamity

with becoming Christian Fortitude. I know many will say it's fine talking to empty Bellies. But what, my Friends, is to be done? If the Thing could be remedied, do you not think the King, his Ministers, and Parliament, would remedy it? I believe there is not on Earth a better-disposed Man than our King, nor one more worthy to be called the Father of his People; and his Ministers being Men of the best Character, can we possibly suppose that they do not sensibly feel for the sufferings of the People? I believe they do, and that every thing that can be done has been done, is doing, and will be done, to produce both Plenty and Peace. But disaffected Men will tell you otherwise, they keep up the old Tale, that the King swallows all the Taxes, and a hundred Tales as idle and absurd; whereas I believe he has not, at his own Command, so much per Annum as many of our Noblemen and Fellow Subjects.

Finally, the Disaffected urge you on to be their Tools in breaking the Peace, and creating Alarm, and then leave you in the Lurch to die at the fatal Tree. Rioting, by frightening People who have Provisions to sell, may lower the Price for a short Period, but I never knew an Instance where it did not return again with redoubled violence. If a man is plundered of his Flour or Cheese, he must go to Market again, and that raises the Price. Besides, the Waste of any thing makes it scarcer, and that must make it dearer. Whilst our rich Neighbours are trying all Ways to lessen our Distresses, and whilst the Overseers are opening their Hands as liberally as Circumstances admit, My Advice is, let us consider the Calamity a Visitation from Heaven, to shew us not only where our dependence is for our Daily Bread, but also to bring to our Recollection our past Ingratitude in eating it without Thanks, unmindful of the Hand from whence these Blessings come.

I exhort you to rely on the King and the Parliament, and firmly to believe that every Thing is doing that is in the Power of *Man*, to make Things better; and earnestly Pray to the Giver of all Good, for a favourable Seedtime and Harvest; and then if we do, one and all, turn from our Sins, and implore His Mercy, it may be His Pleasure to shower down Blessings upon the Nation, and make us more prosperous than ever we were. Therefore, my Friends, commit no Outrage, but act like worthy Men, above all, obeying the Divine Command of our Saviour, viz., "To do unto all Men as you would they should do unto you." That this may be the case, prays your ever Well wisher,

Birmingham, March 28, 1801. JOB KNOTT.

P.S. Remember that the Country People will take their Provisions to that Town which is most peaceable, and where the Inhabitants treat them with most Civility. It is well known the Market that is best supplied will be the cheapest, therefore the Price of Articles at every Market must necessarily rise and fall in Proportion as Towns are peaceable or riotous.

Our own age has given practical effect to many tentative undertakings of a past time; and we are too apt to suppose that they are the inventions of the present time. Periodical collections in churches and chapels for charitable purposes were not only suggested, but practically acted upon. Industrial Schools for children were also founded, and worked well. Benevolent Societies of various kinds existed, nor was

the institution of penny clubs unknown to them. A very good one was started at Harborne in 1800, of which we have the following account :—

HARBORNE PENNY CLUB.

April 27, 1801.—In Consequence of the Institution of a Penny Club among the Sunday School Children of Harborne, the most pleasing Effect has been already produced. It is now two years since this little Club was instituted, and last Sunday presented the most charming Spectacle of more than two Hundred Children neatly clothed by this small weekly Deposit of Money. As we think the Plan, wherever adopted, cannot fail to be productive of great Good, we shall give a Sketch of it as published at the Time of the Institution.

The Children Subscribers are about two Hundred and Twenty, and the Fund is increased by about One Hundred Neighbours who, friendly to the Cause, subscribe the like Sum, as Honorary Members.

The Advantage arising to Society in general, and to the Poor in particular, from habitual Cleanliness and a decent Appearance, are so obvious, that they need little Explanation. It is is only to notice and contrast the general Health and Conduct of poor Children kept clean and decently cloathed, with that of those who, from Idleness, always appear in *Dirt* and Rags. The latter, on a Sunday in particular, are found wandering about the Lanes and Fields, breaking the Farmer's Hedges, and engaged in all Kind of mischievous noisy Play, and not unfrequently cursing and swearing, whilst the others are found in the path of Duty at Church or at Home.

It is a Practice which greatly contributes to Health that the poor Child who has decent Garments to put on, will be induced to Wash and Comb, an important Practice too much neglected by the Poor in general.

It contributes to the general Stock of Happiness arising from Industry, for whilst the poor Children of the Parish are exerting themselves by Nail making or otherwise, to save a Penny for the Club, poor Children in other Parishes are at the same Time employed in manufacturing the Materials for the very Garments to be thus purchased. Thus Villages become composed of industrious and respectable Poor, who, it may be reasonably hoped, will transmit to their Children, and their Children's Children, the same proper and useful Habits.

To effect this desirable Purpose in this Parish, a Penny Club has been established. The Members are composed principally of poor Children, and such of their Kind Neighbours (Honorary Members) whom, for wise Purposes, God's Providence has placed here comparatively in more exalted Situations.

Every Member subscribes One Penny per Week ; the Money is placed in a friendly Hand, who is so kind not only to take the Trouble, but to allow Five per cent. Interest for it ; and once in two years the Stock is to be laid out in Cloathing, and then equally distributed among such poor Members who shall be then upon the List.

The next extract refers to some important parliamentary proceedings in relation to the Copper trade :—

June 8, 1801.—On Wednesday the following resolutions were moved and agreed to in the House of Commons ; and a Bill ordered to be brought in founded upon them :

" 1st. To permit the Importation of Copper after a time to be limited.

2nd. To enable his Majesty, by Proclamation or Order in Council, to prohibit the Exportation of Copper to any place within the limits of Europe.

3rd. That the Duties now payable on the Importation of Copper Brick, Rose Copper, Copper Coin, and on all Cast Copper, and the Drawbacks now allowed on the Exportation thereof, shall cease and determine.

4th. That instead of former duties, a Duty of Five Shillings and Three pence be charged upon every hundred weight of all Copper Brick, Rose Copper, Copper Coin, and Cast Copper, imported into Great Britain."

The attention of the Legislature to the interests of general industry, can in no case be more necessary and useful than the Copper trade, where the operation of large capitals, and the long practice of avaricious finesse and cunning, is bloating a few persons with riches, while the useful and laborious Manufacturer is starving, or committing his family to the care of an already over-burthened parish. The population of Warwickshire is as useful as the population of Kent, and the Monopolizer of Hops is not the only enormous Capitalist whose steps should be watched by Government.

In this year our Botanic Garden was originated. On September 21 this preliminary editorial notice appeared:—

From the general diffusion of taste for Botany, perhaps the most delightful of all the Sciences, Botanic Gardens are now forming in various parts of the kingdom. Our readers will perceive from an advertisement in this page, that the votaries of Flora, amongst whom we may number some of the most accomplished of the Fair Sex, are likely to be soon gratified with a similar establishment in this neighbourhood.

The same paper also contained this advertisement:—

BOTANIC GARDEN.

Those Ladies and Gentlemen who are disposed to promote the Establishment of a Public Botanical Garden in the Vicinity of Birmingham, by an annual Subscription, are requested to leave their Names at Mr. John Clarke's, Druggist, Bull Street; Messrs. Knott and Lloyd's, or Messrs. Swinney and Hawkins, Printers, where a List of upwards of 160 Subscribers may be seen. When the Number of Subscribers is increased to 200, a Meeting will be called to adopt the most eligible Plan for carrying the same into Effect.

The good work was carried on with our usual energy; for in the next week's *Gazette* we find this advertisement:—

Wanted to purchase, or on a Long Lease, about Two or Three Acres of Land, in the Vicinity of Birmingham, for the Purpose of forming a Public Botanical Garden.—Apply to J. Clarke, Druggist, Birmingham.

A meeting of the subscribers was held on November 10, Matthew Boulton in the chair, at which the laws were passed, and a committee elected.

The war had now existed for nine years, and the whole nation was eager and clamorous for peace. Negociations had been going on for

some time, and, to the unparalleled joy of the people, the preliminaries were signed in London on the first of October. The news spread rapidly through the country, and the demonstrations of delight with which London had welcomed the news were repeated throughout the country. The manner in which the inhabitants of this town received the intelligence will be seen from the following extracts:—

Birmingham, October 5, 1801.—The glad tidings of Preliminaries of Peace being signed were first brought to this Town on Saturday morning, by the Bristol mail (which arrived two hours and upwards before the London) in consequence of a letter received by a gentleman at the former place, on Friday afternoon, from the Prime Minister. This was sufficient to set the town in commotion; but an anxiety for a confirmation of the good news led bodies of the people to the borders of the town, waiting the arrival of the London coaches, whose appearance at a distance with flags, blue ribbons, &c., soon dissipated all their doubts as to the truth of the agreeable intelligence. The horses were taken from the Mail coach and drawn by the populace through the streets to the Post Office; and the distribution of the Gazettes Extraordinary soon satisfied the most incredulous. The whole day exhibited a scene of joy and exultation, bells ringing and guns firing, and persons of both sexes appearing in the streets with blue ribbons, and at night there was a general and splendid illumination.

That Peace, and one so unexpected, should produce with us the most joyful effects is not surprising, for no other place in the kingdom we may venture to assert, has suffered more, or, upon the whole, borne with so much temper, and truly national and loyal spirit, the affliction of war, as the Town of Birmingham.

Oct. 12, 1801.—The delirious joy with which the news of the signing of the Preliminaries of Peace was received here, was considerably damped toward the latter part of the week. Some of the London Journals had asserted the Ratification of the Articles might arrive in town on Tuesday night, the people therefore made themselves certain that a Courier, or person of greater consequence, would not fail to be in London on Wednesday; consequently, pretty early on Thursday the streets were lined, we may venture to say, with from ten to fifteen thousand persons, from the borders of the town to the Post Office. Considerable disappointment took place on this day, and more so on Friday, when the people began quite to despond. On Saturday, a paragraph in the Sun considerably relieved their anxiety; and yesterday morning, the Mail Coach entered the town drawn by six horses, with flags and suitable paintings, with a number of persons on horseback preceding it, and followed by a numerous body of people, some of whom went four or five miles to meet it. The news of the Ratification was, of course, received with rapture, and this night there will be a general illumination, which is expected to be most splendid, exhibiting, transparencies, &c.

We are sorry to state that during the rejoicing, firing, illumination, &c., on Saturday in this town, a man who had the unpardonable neglect and imprudence (we trust, for humanity's sake, we should not use any other term) on discharging his piece, unfortunately killed dead upon the spot a poor boy, of about 13 years of age. There were scoundrels too who might also wilfully have occasioned death, or something near it. They amused themselves by coming gently behind gentlemen, and placing a pistol close to their

ear, fired it off, stunned them, and singed the hats, some faces, and their cloaths. None of these fellows were taken, but we trust, to-night, if they follow up their amusements, every good person at hand will assist at once in taking them up, and we can rely upon them receiving a very proper punishment from the Magistrates.

Birmingham, October 19, 1801.—The illumination that we mentioned in our last would take place in this town on Monday evening was one of the most splendid and brilliant Birmingham ever witnessed. There was scarcely a house that did not exhibit some beautiful transparency or device. The Free School, Blue Coat School (lighted by a private subscription) and other public buildings, particularly attracted notice; and the immense fire of loads of coals in front of the Canal Office, at the end of a wide street, where an ox was roasting, had a very good effect. We are happy to say that we have not heard of any accident happening; but that this day of rejoicing closed in the most orderly, happy, and peaceful manner.

The non-participation of the Quakers in the public festivities on this occasion excited considerable antagonism. The *Gazette* took up their cause, and we read with great pleasure the following liberal paragraph on the subject :—

November 2, 1801.—It must always be painful to men of liberal minds to differ in sentiment and conduct from their respectable neighbours, especially at a time of such universal rejoicing as the present for the happy return of Peace; and this we have reason to believe has been the case with the Society of Friends in this town and elsewhere; but whosoever attentively considers their general religious principles, which have a particular tendency to lead them out of all excess of joy or grief, and to preserve that thankful tranquillity which keeps the passions unruffled, must see that illuminations and such like tumultuous expressions of joy, are inconsistent with those principles, and more especially as they too often are attended with excesses of various kinds.

If any circumstance could induce them to illuminate their houses, it would be the return of peace, at which they most cordially rejoice; but, even on this occasion, they think thankfulness to Divine Providence is best discovered by heartful gratitude and amendment of life. It should also be considered, that were they to illuminate on some occasions it would be almost impossible for them to avoid doing it on others, and as their well known principles against war do not allow them to join in public rejoicing for victories obtained by the effusion of blood, which are the general occasions of illuminations, this is another reason for their thinking it most consistent to decline the practice altogether; and it is much to the credit of this town that these scruples of conscience have been treated with so much kindness and moderation.

A musical performance was given this month in the various churches and chapels for the benefit of one of our best charities—the Blue Coat School. The committee thus express their obligations and return their thanks :—

November 9, 1801.—The Committee return their very grateful Thanks to all the Vocal and Instrumental Performers who generously and successfully exerted their splendid

Talents at the different Churches and Chapels for the Benefit of the Blue Coat Charity School. As Mr. Weston has requested them to be sparing of their Acknowledgements to him, they reluctantly comply with his request; but think it their indispensable duty to inform the Subscribers to this Charity, that, in a very infirm State of Health, he has devoted a great part of the last five Months to the composing, transcribing, teaching, and arranging of that Mass of Music, which has met with such general Approbation; and that he has declined the Acceptance of any Remuneration for his Labour, or Reimbursement of the Expences which he incurred.

Mr. Weston made the following reply :—

November 16, 1801.

To the Committee of the Blue Coat Charity School.

Gentlemen,—Happy in the Consciousness of having, to the utmost of my Power, contributed to the Support of your benevolent Institution, I am almost equally happy in finding that you have complied with my earnest Request, since from your *chastized* Praise of myself, in last Monday's Paper, the Interested, the Envious, and the Malevolent, will feel less Inclination to gratify their unamiable Propensities, than when, in July last, you so overrated my humble Talents and so overpraised my feeble Service: for I think it a Christian's Duty to avoid throwing Temptations and Stumbling Blocks in the Way of the "weaker Brethren."

Far be from me the vanity of attributing the unprecedented amount of the three last Collections solely to my Exertions; the high reputation of the Clergymen who have so distinguished themselves, by their excellent Sermons, on the different Occasions, forbids such an absurd Supposition. To my numerous Vocal and Instrumental Friends who so readily and generously exerted their various Talents, without Fee or Reward, and who even refused to be paid their Expences, I return most sincere Thanks, assuring them that neither Distance of Time nor Place shall ever obliterate their Kindness from my Remembrance.

I have the Honour to be,
Gentlemen, with perfect Gratitude and Respect,
Your devoted Servant,

Solihull, November 12, 1801. JOSEPH WESTON.

Mr. Weston was a local poet of the period. As we have previously seen, he edited Mrs. Pickering's (*née* Poynton), the blind poetess's, works; and added many of his own verses, and some of Mr. Morfitt's, to the volume. A specimen of his poetic powers has already been given.

The next extract announces the formation of a new bank :—

Birmingham, December 7.—We learn, from undoubted authority, that a new Bank will be opened in this town by John Wilkinson, Esq., of Bradley, with the additional names of Mr. Startin, and Mr. William Smith, of Temple-street, at Christmas next.

Amongst the charitable societies of the time was the Female School of Industry; and in an advertisement calling a meeting of the subscribers we have a brief account of its objects :—

Dec. 7, 1801.—The Committee of the Female School of Industry (No. 6, Queen-street) are respectfully informed, that a General Meeting of the Subscribers will be held at the Charity School, St. Philip's Church Yard, To-morrow (Tuesday), December 8, at Eleven in the Forenoon.

As the Object of this Institution may not, perhaps, be very generally known, the Committee beg to observe, that it is intended for the Reception of Female Children of the Poor, who are taught to read, knit and sew, and instructed in such other Duties as will be the Means, it is hoped, to qualify them, whatever be their future Situation in Life, to become good and faithful Servants, and useful Members of Society.

The Committee are happy further to observe, that the Institution, though in its Infancy, has not failed to answer the Expectations of its beloved Patrons. They feel it their Duty, however, to say, that its Success depends not merely upon the Liberality of its Supporters, but that it may be promoted as much, or more, by personal Attention. It is essential to its very Existence, that each Visitor endeavours, as much as possible, to be punctual in the discharge of her duty; and it would be of great Benefit if every Subscriber would, occasionally, as may be most convenient, call at the School, and aid its Design by enforcing Regularity of Attendance, by a seasonable Reproof and Correction of Error, and by a judicious Encouragement of Merit.

The following announcement of a death ought not to be without interest to the reader:—

Birmingham, December 14, 1801.—On Saturday, died, in the 40th year of his age, at Moor Green, near this town, sincerely and deservedly regretted by his numerous friends and acquaintance, Mr. Thomas Aris Pearson, many years sole proprietor of this Gazette. The Gazette will continue to be published as usual, by his Executors, at No. 99, High-street.

On December 21 the artisans of the town received the welcome information that "A Pin Manufactory, on an extensive scale, is being established in this town, under the firm of Lovell and Co." And thus, with new trading and commercial prospects, and with the hope of a permanent peace, closed this sad and disastrous decade.

§ 3. EDUCATION AND LITERATURE.

The literary activity of this decade was confined to political and polemical pamphlets, with an occasional sermon, which was generally political and polemical together. Freeth still wrote and sung his political songs, but his best poems belong to an earlier date; Morfitt sounded the "tocsin," abused the French, anathematised Dr. Priestley, and his voice was still for war. He also contributed to Pratt's Harvest

Home some valuable information on the condition of Birmingham in his own time, to which we shall direct special attention in a separate chapter. Weston wrote his feeble verse, and Bisset sung of Birmingham. Charles Lloyd published some of his poems; but the literary harvest of this sad and troublous time was not a rich one. We have a few pamphlets advertised; one with the curious title, "Any Thing, or From Any Where; otherwise, Some Account of the Life of the Rev. Mr. Turnabout, the Great High Priest." On September 10, 1792, this notice was published:—

A Manuscript.

J. Thompson, Printer, informs the Person who sent him a Manuscript for Publication, entitled, The Touchstone, or Advice to Tradesmen, on Tuesday last, that he wishes to decline publishing it in its present state, as the Satire is too personal, both on Tradesmen and their Clerks. If the Author will consent to some of the objectionable Passages being omitted, it shall be published, otherwise it will be returned, upon receiving a Line written in a correspondent Hand, and paying the Expence of this Advertisement.—Moor-street, Sept. 8, 1792.

Job Nott was very busy at this time. He published, price three-pence, his own Life and Adventures. The announcement of the third edition of this word will suffice as an example of his method and style:—

Job Nott's Third Edition.

February 11, 1793.—On Wednesday morning next, will be published, Price 3d. each, or one Guinea a Hundred,—The Life and Adventures of Job Nott, the Third Edition. In which Miss Spanker is reproved for her ill Manners, and made a more proper Companion for the fair Sex.

Brother Englishmen, it is very pleasing to me to hear from my Bookseller, that my Life is going at such a Rate; and is in general so much approved. A great and good Man has said that "Nobody can read it without Laughing, nor leave it off without being more Loyal and more Moral." And, therefore, to all Loyal Masters my Advice is, give your Servants one a Piece. To all Loyal Officers my Advice is, give your brave Recruits one a Piece for a Knapsack Companion. And to my Brother Artificers, and the small Fry, my Advice is, get a dab of over Work that you may be able to lay out Three-pence in a Book, wrote entirely for your Use, Information, and Amusement, and by one that regards and never will deceive you. Yours to Command,

Job Nott.*

P.S.—I see Dr. Priestley has just writ to the French to tell them there is a God, and that the Miracles recorded of Jesus Christ in the New Testament, and by Moses in the Old Testament, are true upon a Certainty. Who knows but what I said in my Book, Page 33 and 34, may have spurred up the Doctor to write this Letter to the French, and which I think does him very great Credit. "Fair Play's a Jewel," as Cousin John said.

* It is not known with certainty who wrote under this *sobriquet;* but the general feeling was in favour of the Rev. E. Burn, and Theo. Price.

The Rev. J. Riland, Rector of Sutton Coldfield, published in Birmingham, on December 17, his "Rights of God, occasioned by Mr. Paine's Rights of Man." In this year also Hutton, who unfortunately in his old age had taken to write verses, issued his "Barbers; or, the Road to Riches. A Poem." In 1796 Dr. Withering published his important book on British Plants, which passed through five editions, and was accepted as a standard work on the subject.

A passing visitor gives this description of a work of Art which he saw in this town :—

To the Printer of Aris's Birmingham Gazette.

Nov. 27, 1797.—Sir,—Passing some time since through Birmingham on my road to London, I was inclined to see a little of the town, and, after rambling through some of the principal streets, I was returning to my inn, when my curiosity at seeing some models and figures at a window in Bull-street, induced me to enter the shop. The first thing that caught my eye was a most beautiful little figure, in rice paste, of a dying Saint, of exquisite workmanship, and enquiring who was the artist, I was answered by a curious looking fellow in a white jacket, who said if I would not think the worse of it, it was the work of an Englishmen who was yet a boy, and was surprised at finding him to be the artist. I must confess I was highly entertained with the great variety which surrounded me, such as miniature paintings, models in wax, rice paste, and plaster of Paris, which for delicacy of finishing surpassed anything of the kind I had ever seen; landscapes and devices of different kinds, which formed such a pleasing variety I never before found in any shop of the kind. I was equally gratified with the sight up stairs, which was an exhibition of Wax Figures. Pulling out my watch, I regretted I had but ten minutes to spare, or I would have sat for my likeness; to which the artist, smiling, replied he required no more than half the time, which I freely gave, and had the pleasure to receive, in a few days, that which is universally allowed to be a good likeness. Merit like his should not go unnoticed. I am, Sir, yours J. P. L.

The next is a sad announcement :—

August 27, 1798.—Mr. Bullock, the young Artist who has gained such great repute in Birmingham, we are sorry to say is on the point of leaving it, and returning to London, the statue business not answering his expectation. He now intends giving his whole attention to the modelling and painting of likenesses. We believe him to be the only one in England who professes both those arts, although his age does not exceed twenty. What may we expect to see from him when he has had ten years' practice?

On March 4, 1799, appeared

Proposals for publishing by Subscription, (Price 10s. 6d.)—Eight Songs and Four Canzonets, dedicated (by Permission) to the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward. By Jeremiah Clarke, M.B., Organist, in Birmingham.

On July 8, Mr. John Collard published his well known "Praxis of Logic, for the use of Schools." This gentleman was one of the Twelve Apostles who used to meet at "Poet Freeth's;" and he consequently

figures in Eckstein's Tontine Painting. He was a hatter and tailor in High Street, and is described as "being very fond of discussion." He retired from business and lived in a "pretty sylvan cottage, near the Bell and Cuckoo, on the Sutton-road." Here he wrote his works, the "Essentials of Logic," the "Praxis of Logic," and "other elaborate treatises." A mezzotint portrait of Mr. Collard was published in 1808, from a picture by Lonsdale. His works obtained considerable reputation at the time, and are not quite unknown at the present day.

In July of this year (1799) appeared the advertisement of "Birmingham, a Poem," by Mr. J. Bisset. This gentleman was also of the "Twelve;" who seem to have included nearly all the men of intellect of the day. In the key to the "Tontine Painting" we have the following brief biography of this old Birmingham worthy :—

Mr. James Bisset kept a Bazaar and Museum, in New Street, and being the longest liver of the twelve, he ultimately became possessor of the Tontine Picture. Later in life he removed to Leamington, where he continued to keep a Museum until his decease. One evening, whilst living in New Street, and suffering most acutely from an attack of gout, two of the Club, agreeably to a pre-concerted plan, entered his sitting room disguised as highwaymen and well armed, roughly demanded his money, and as was expected, Mr. Bisset resisted, and forgetting his gout, actually chased the supposed robbers to Freeth's house in Bell Street, where the practical joke became at once apparent, and, strange to say, he never again suffered from the same excruciating complaint, to which he had for a long time previously been a martyr. Another anecdote has been related to the writer of these sketches by an eye witness, which afforded a "striking exhibition" of the bitterness of party feeling, which ran high at the period referred to (Circa 1790). One evening Mr. Bisset had the temerity to call in at Lindon's, the Tory house, in Peck Lane, when one of the company indecently puffed a volume of smoke into his face. Up to this moment Mr. Bisset had submitted with perfect indifference to the many petty and insulting observations made indirectly at him, but the moment an indignity was directly offered to him, he resented the insult by felling the offender to the ground. A general mêlée took place, which ended in Bisset's summary ejection into the street, and a breakage of glasses and jugs, &c., amounting to nearly five pounds, which Mr. Bisset had to pay, being sued for the amount in the Court of Requests. He was considered a connoisseur of paintings and works of art. The following is a copy of the inscription on the tombstone erected to his memory by his friends and admirers, in the church-yard at Leamington :—

Sacred To the Memory of
JAMES BISSET,
Who died August 17, 1832, Aged 72 years.
This Monument was erected by his Friends in token of their respect to his memory.
DOROTHY BISSET, Died, December 14th, 1825, Aged 62.

His poem on Birmingham was, in fact, a new method of advertising, as elegant as it was ingenious. Week after week his announcement of

this new venture appeared in the *Gazette;* shewing that he was a master of the art himself, and set a good example to those whose favours he solicited. One of these advertisements will afford the reader a clear idea of the character of the undertaking:—

July 29, 1799.

BIRMINGHAM:

A Poem,

Containing a Description of the different Manufactories and other Curiosities to be seen in the Town and Neighbourhood,

Accompanied by a most magnificent Directory, or Nominal Concatenation of all the principal Gentlemen, Merchants, Artists, Tradesmen, Manufacturers, &c., in and about Birmingham.

J. Bisset respectfully informs the Public, that having executed the Designs for the Copper Plates, which are now in the hands of the most eminent Artists—those Gentlemen who may wish to have their Names, Professions, or Place of Residence inserted, will be pleased to transmit the same to him, at his Museum, in order that they may be properly registered and alphabetically arranged.

Many of the Designs are emblematical of the different Professions or Trades, which contain the Names of the respective Parties, viz: Artists, Merchants, Gun-makers, Sword-Cutlers, Japanners, Brassfounders, Stationers, principal Inns, &c., &c. Others represent some of the principal Buildings in the town, viz: the Churches, Free School, Blue School, Crescent, Theatre, Lloyd's Hotel, &c., &c.; also a perspective View of Deritend Chapel, and the Apollo, with a Scroll for the Names of Gentlemen, Tradesmen, &c., in that Quarter.

As it is an Undertaking that will combine both Elegance and Usefulness, no Pains nor Expence will be spared to make it worthy the Attention of the Public. The general Approbation his novel and eccentric Proposals have received from those respectable Gentlemen who have honoured him with their Names, and inspected the Designs, has induced him to proceed on a most extensive scale.

Those who may not properly comprehend the magnificent Plan J. B. has adopted, to extend the Circulation of the respectable Addresses he may receive (and at the same Time, he hopes, do Honour to the Town), may see Specimens of the Engravings, and receive an Explanation, by applying as above, or at the Printer's.

Any Gentleman wishing to find his own Plate, may be accommodated with a Place free of Expence, otherwise the Insertion of the Name will be 10s. 6d., to be paid when the Plates are complete; but any indigent or ingenious Artist or Manufacturer who cannot afford to pay, shall have a Place gratis.

No name can be inserted after the 10th of August, and as no personal Application will be made, and no Names engraved but those who send in their Address, it rests with every Gentleman whether he chuses to have his Name appear along with those of his respectable Neighbours.

J. B. in a former Advertisement obviously pointed out the general Utility of his Plan, as it is meant to supersede the Necessity of Gentlemen, &c., issuing their own Cards, as by this Mode they will be disseminated not only over the whole kingdom, but will, in Time, find their Way to the first Cities in the Universe, and will (doubtless) be sought with Avidity by all Encouragers of the Liberal Arts.

He can promise but little for the Poem which will accompany such an elegant Combination of Superb Engravings—

But if an Author does his best,
Sure Candour will excuse the rest.

The numerous and respectable Applications J. B. has received to publish the Rambles of Tony Lumpkin through Birmingham, which was spoken at the Theatre, by Mr. Munden (and received with such unbounded applause), he freely complies with their Request, and intends annexing it to the above Poem, which he hopes will be published about the middle of September.

Remains, with great Respect,

THE PUBLIC'S OBEDIENT SERVANT.

Museum, Birmingham, July 25, 1799.

What tho' we boast no River's genial Source,
And from the Ocean—Rocks impede our Course,
Impervious Mountains yielding to our Skill,
We pierce their Centers—and the Valleys fill,
Direct their Springs—construct a Navigation,
To waft our Commerce to each distant Nation,
And show, where'er our Patterns are unfurl'd,
For Works of Fancy we outstrip the World.

The book, heralded by so many "puffs preliminary," was published in January, 1800, and is an admirable specimen of an illustrated Directory. Many of the engravings are artistically designed, and beautifully executed. It is also useful as giving us the names and places of business of many of our early manufacturers. The illustrated Directory is preceded by two poems, exclusive of an "Address to the Reader," and an "Introduction," the first called a "Poetic Survey round Birmingham, &c.;" and the second, a "Ramble of the Gods through Birmingham." We will accompany the Gods, and see with them how Birmingham looked to a contemporary in 1800:—

Of Public Charities we have our share,
To which all freely give, who aught can spare;
For, independent of the Levies clear,
Which net near THIRTY THOUSAND POUNDS per year,
There's various Institutions, where, indeed,
Relief's afforded to the poor in need;
Who oft, with grateful hearts, those gifts receive,
Which lib'ral donors oft so freely give.

Of PUBLIC PLACES for AMUSEMENT, we
Can boast of little more than TWO or THREE;
Of LIBRARIES rare, we number two,
One called the OLD, the other styl'd the NEW.
We've MAILS and COACHES, HOURLY setting out
For ev'ry TOWN and COUNTY round about,
And safe conveyance have to every part,
For EAST, WEST, NORTH and SOUTH, they daily start.

Of handsome HACKNEY COACHES we've our share,
But yet no Act to regulate their fare;
Of course the COACHMEN charge whate'er they please,
Tho' few are found extorting extra fees;

You'll find them steady fellows, and quite willing
To drive you several streets' length for a shilling;
TWO SHILLINGS to VAUXHALL'S their usual fare,
Or EIGHTEEN-PENCE the CRESCENT or the SQUARE;
But those who visit HANDSWORTH or SOHO,
Had better make a bargain, ere they go.

Of BANKS we've FOUR,—than which none in the land
Upon a steadier, firmer basis stand;
When STOCKS were low, and discount's rapid force
Had almost drained OLD ABR'AM'S grand resource,
The Credit of our BANKERS firmly stood;
As sterling GOLD their NOTES were full as good,
Nor e'er were question'd all throughout the land;
The Reason's plain—they pay "UPON DEMAND."

Old Vulcan said, "Of one thing he was sure,
"The atmosphere we breathe is clear and pure;
"The num'rous FIRES around," he said, "bid fair
"T'expel all VAPOURS, purify the AIR;
"And though, in some things, Doctors differ still,
"To controvert that truth, there's none that will."

Our STREETS are spacious, BUILDINGS neat and clean,
As in a TRADING TOWN were ever seen;
And FIFTEEN THOUSAND HOUSES here you'll find,
With thrice TEN THOUSAND SHOPS arrang'd behind.

The STREETS are pav'd, 'tis true, but all the stones
Are set the wrong way up, in shape of cones,
And STRANGERS limp along the best pav'd street,
As if parch'd peas were strew'd beneath their feet;
Whilst custom makes the NATIVES scarcely feel
Sharp-pointed pebbles press the toe or heel.

A traveller furnishes us with the following remarks on some of the works of Mr. Eginton, an eminent artist in stained glass :—

July 28, 1800.

To the Printer of the Birmingham Gazette.

Sir,—Having frequently beheld, with infinite pleasure, the various works of that justly-celebrated artist in stained glass, Mr. EGINTON, of Handsworth, near Birmingham, permit me, as a small tribute to his superior merit, thus to express the delight and satisfaction I again lately felt in viewing another of his productions, put up by the munificence of JOSEPH SCOTT, ESQ., in the east window of Great Bar Chapel, the 16th Instant. The subject of this beautiful picture is very happily borrowed from the Rev. W. Peter's Spirit

of a Child conducted by an Angel into the Presence of its Maker; in the execution of which there are here evidently some very material improvements upon the original design, particularly in the judicious introduction of some highly-finished clouds, which happily relieve the brilliant effect of the preternatural light. The graceful forms, light flowing hair, and exquisitely beautiful and interesting countenances of the two figures, are admirably delineated and softened by that gradation of tints and chaste colouring unknown to the antients in the art of painting glass. The excellent proportion of the window must likewise strike every beholder, as well as its advantageous situation in a semi-circle, where no intruding side light diminishes the happy effect of the whole. On the following Sunday, being the wake, I had the satisfaction of attending Divine Worship in this elegant Chapel, when the Rev. E. WATERS delivered a very appropriate and animated discourse on the occasion, from the 1st chapter of the 1st book of Kings, the 7th and 8th verses, on the merits of which I could expatiate truly; but from the fear of taking up too much of your valuable paper, I shall conclude with referring your readers to his volume of SERMONS, immediately, I understand, to be advertised for publication.

VIATOR.

There were, of course, occasional lectures, scientific and others, but the literary progress of the town between 1791 and 1801 was not encouraging. War, distress, political despotism and religious intolerance were enough to check any efforts for increasing the educational resources of the town. The Blue Coat School, the Protestant Dissenting School, and the Sunday Schools, were almost the only institutions which were now engaged in giving education to the poor.

§ 4. AMUSEMENTS.

The badness of the times had a depressing influence on the amusements of the people. The theatre was open for its ordinary season of four months in each year, and, judging from the slight notices given, was tolerably successful. Some of the greatest performers on the English stage appeared in the town, and some new plays were produced. Entertainments of other kinds were not numerous. A time of dearth, of war, of short trade, and overwhelming taxes, is certainly not a time in which we should expect to find much piping and dancing. The ordinary seriousness and gravity of the people would be increased by their sufferings, and they had little care for what under such circumstances would have appeared the frivolities of life. The first paragraph we meet with relates to private theatricals :—

PRIVATE THEATRE, LIVERY STREET.

February 6, 1792.—The Managers, being sensible of the Inconvenience which many Ladies must have experienced, from a more numerous audience generally attending than the Theatre will conveniently hold, respectfully inform their Friends that in future no Gentleman, being a non-subscriber, can be admitted; and that the Tickets delivered for the last Evening's Performance, cannot be admitted on any future evening, as no ticket will be deemed admissable unless regularly indorsed by a subscriber.

The once celebrated Polish dwarf was with us this year :—

February 13, 1792.—By Permission.—Mr. Boruwlaski (the Polish Gentleman), aged 52 years, only Three Feet Three Inches in Stature, has the Honour to announce his Arrival in this Town. His favourable Reception, among persons of the first Rank, has induced him to hope for the same Protection from the Ladies and Gentlemen of this Place, and its environs.

He will receive Company from Eleven o'clock in the Morning till Three, and from Four in the Afternoon till Seven, at Mrs. Morrell's, Shoemaker, High-street, opposite the end of New-street.

Admittance, to see him, 1s. each Person.

N.B.—If Mr. Boruwlaski does not give a Concert, which his Friends have done him the Honour to Request, he will leave Birmingham on Saturday next.

There were Maccabes in those days, and judging from his bill, Mr. Collins was of the number :—

January 14, 1793.

For Two or Three Nights at Most.

"Sport, that wrinkled Care derides,
And Laughter, holding both his sides."

At the Gentlemen's Private Theatre, in Livery Street, on Wednesday, January 16, 1793, will be presented for the first time in Birmingham,

Collins's New Embellished

EVENING BRUSH,

For Rubbing off the Rust of Care,

As exhibited Fifty-two Nights last Winter, at the Lyceum, in London, to overflowing Houses, after One Hundred and Ninety-four Repetitions of the Brush in its original State, at the Royal Theatre, and the Lyceum before,

By the Author Himself.

The whole interspersed with the following New and Original Songs :—The Brush The King, the Stage Coach, The Glorious Ninety-three, John Bull, Prospect of To-morrow, Gimblet-eyed Kitty, England's Alarm, Rodney's Dirge, Tragi-comic Murder, Von Two Tree leetel Vords a la Francoise, and the History of England through Two and Thirty Reigns, a copious subject short in Detail!

Doors open at Half after Six. Begin exactly at Seven. Admittance, Two Shillings.

The House will be completely aired, as two large stoves will be kept constantly burning every Day, and have been so for several Days past.

N.B. Convenient Lights placed in the Court Yard leading to the Theatre.

The French Revolution introduced what, in "these degenerate days," would be called a new sensation in amusements. This was no other than

April 22nd, 1793.

LA GUILLOTINE;

Or Beheading Machine from Paris. As exhibited at the Hay Market, London, before the principal Nobility of the Kingdom.

The unhappy Fate of the late King of France having excited universal Compassion in this Country, it is presumed that the Curiosity of the Public will be gratified by the View and the Effect of an Instrument like that by which he suffered. Accordingly a Guillotine has been constructed under the immediate Direction of a Gentleman who was present at the fatal Period, and who very minutely examined the Original, to which it is exactly similar in every Respect. And in order that the Effect of the Machine may be better conveyed to the Spectator, the Execution is performed on a Figure as large as life; the Head is severed from the Body by a tremendous Fall of the Axe, and the Illusion is complete.

The Exhibition to commence on Wednesday next, at the Public Rooms, New-street, and to continue every Day of this and the following Week. Admittance One Shilling each Person. Hours from Eleven till Five o'Clock each Day.

Our friends the Campanologians will be delighted with the following record of a successful feat :—

October 7, 1793.—On Tuesday last was rung at St. Peter's Church, Aston, near this town, a true and complete peal of Bob Majors, consisting of 15,360 changes, which was completed in 9 hours and 31 minutes, by eight of the society of that place; including, it is said, the most changes, and greatest length of time, ever rung in this kingdom.

The events in France furnished the Birmingham people with another entertainment, which is thus announced :—

November 4, 1793.—We understand that a large beautiful Transparent Painting, descriptive of that most affecting and interesting Event, Louis XVI., King of France, taking a final Leave of the Queen and Family in the Temple, a few Minutes previous to his Execution, with two large emblematical Side Pieces, representing Calumny and Tyranny, is in great Forwardness, done as large as Life, by an eminent Artist of this Town, and will be exhibited in a large commodious Room at the Union Tavern, Cherry-street, on Thursday next, and following Days, from eleven o'Clock till two, and from five till eight in the evening. And *in order to prevent the disagreeable Effluvia arising from Lamps, we are informed it is the Proprietor's Intention to light up the Piece with Wax.*

This "transparency" produced four extempore lines :—

November 18, 1793.

EXTEMPORE.—On seeing Mr. Wilson's Transparent Painting, now exhibiting at the Union Tavern, Cherry-street.

If aught can make us feel another's pain,
Or raise a sigh for Friends in deep distress,
'Tis this affecting—silent—tragic scene,
Which dictates more than language can express.

Theatrical amusements were suspended for some time by an act of incendiarism. On August 20, 1792, the *Gazette* contained the following account of

THE BURNING OF THE THEATRE.

Many ineffectual attempts have been made for some months past to set fire to our Theatre; but at length the wicked villains have succeeded in their execrable designs. A little after one o'clock on Friday morning last this beautiful edifice was discovered to be on fire; and scarcely had the alarm been given, when immense flames, preceded by vast volumes of smoke, issued from the front and every part of the building, and illuminated the whole town. Though the engines arrived with all possible expedition, and the Officers and Troops of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, quartered in the town, as well as the inhabitants, gave their ready assistance, the flames raged with unabating fury, the well-constructed roof soon fell in, and in the course of about four hours the whole inside, with all the scenery, wardrobe, musical instruments, &c., and whatever else it contained, was entirely consumed, and nothing of this elegant fabrick now remains but the bare walls.

The consternation into which the whole town was thrown by this dreadful fire will easily be imagined. Most of the neighbours were employed in hastily removing their goods; and the family, as well as lodgers, at the Shakespeare Tavern, with difficulty escaped suffocation by flying undressed from their chambers. Happily the night was calm, and the strength of the party walls, and the engines playing upon them, prevented the flames from communicating to the Tavern and contiguous buildings. Mr. Wilday, the Master of the Tavern, however, is a great sufferer from the destruction of much of his furniture in removing it, and the depredations which some inhuman wretches took this opportunity to commit upon him and the rest of the neighbours.

That the Theatre was maliciously set on fire there cannot be a doubt. Those who had the courage to enter it found doors opened which were locked when the house was left by the servants the preceding evening, and they observed the fire had been lighted, and was burning with equal fury, in three different parts of the premises, widely distant from, and without any communication with, each other;—but what could be the motive of the perpetrators of this horrid act, cannot be conceived. With a view, however, of discovering the villainous authors of so iniquitous a deed, the Proprietors have offered a reward of 200 guineas, which we trust will bring them to light, and to the punishment they so justly merit. The premises were insured, and Mr. Yates, the Manager, had also an insurance upon the wardrobe and scenes, &c., but to an amount by no means equal to their value. The Performers will be very great sufferers—the dresses of all of them were entirely burnt, except Mr. Marshall's, who had the intrepidity to enter the dressing room, and rescue his clothes from the flames.

"Happily no lives were lost, nor do we hear of any person receiving much bodily injury during this terrible conflagration. The Deputy Manager, at the risk of his life, saved a quantity of cash and bills.

Birmingham charity at once came in to relieve the distress caused by this wicked act. On the same day that the report of the fire was published, we read :—

August 20, 1792.—The late dreadful Fire in New Street having deprived several Performers of the accustomed Advantages arising from their respective Benefits—the Gentlemen of the Private Theatre in Livery Street, have generously stepped forward in this Hour of Distress, and have liberally offered to the Company the Use of their Theatre for the above Purpose. The Public is, therefore, respectfully informed that the said Theatre, after having been accurately surveyed, is undergoing Alterations which will make it capable of containing near 500 Persons; but that those Ladies and Gentlemen who wish to patronize this Undertaking may meet with every possible Convenience, Tickets for 400 only will be issued.

A public subscription was opened for the same purpose. The proprietors of the Theatre contributed sixty guineas. They also voted a purse of twenty guineas to the soldiers of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards for their active assistance during the fire; and they at once commenced to repair the disaster by issuing the following advertisement :—

To Architects, Builders, &c.

A Theatre.

The Committee of the Proprietors of the Theatre at Birmingham, lately destroyed by Fire, hereby give Notice that they are desirous of receiving Plans and Sections for rebuilding the Inside of, and roofing, the said Theatre.

The intention of the Proprietors is to have a commodious Stage, a Pit, two Rows of Boxes all round the House, and a Gallery over all the Boxes. The Extent of the Ground within the Walls is as follows:—in Length, One Hundred and Twelve Feet; in Breadth, Forty-eight Feet. A Green Room, Dressing Rooms, &c., adjoin the Theatre, and remain on the Outside of the Walls.

Thursday, the First of November next, is the latest Day on which Plans can be received; and with a View of encouraging Artists to deliver them in, the Committee engage to pay for the Plan most approved the Sum of Twenty Guineas, and for the Plan approved after that the Sum of Ten Guineas. All Plans, &c., are desired to be addressed to the Committee, at the Shakespeare Tavern, Birmingham, or left with

T. Brooke, Secretary to the Proprietors.

Birmingham, October 10, 1792.

By November, 1794, the new building was so far advanced that the proprietors advertised for a manager :—

Birmingham Theatre.

Dec. 1, 1794.—The Committee of the Proprietors of the Birmingham Theatre give this Public Notice, in consequence of their Promise to various Appplicants on the subject, that their Theatre will be ready for opening the latter end of the month of May, 1795, and that the Plan upon which they are desirous to agree with any Gentleman to engage and manage a Company for the Summer Season, may be seen on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, the First, Second, and Third Days of December, at the Office of G. Sanders, Esq., No. 252, Oxford-street, London. It is also left with Mr. Brooke, Attorney at Law, Temple Row, Birmingham, to whom any Gentleman inclined to make Proposals are desired to send them before Monday, the 8th of December next.

Birmingham, November 26, 1794.

The result of this advertisement is given in the next paragraph :—

May 25th, 1795.—THE THEATRE.—Our new Theatre (which for the present we shall content ourselves with saying will be superior in elegance and grandeur to any provincial one whatever) opens next month. The Gentleman with whom the Proprietors have engaged as Manager of the Company is Mr. M'Cready, the author of the new Comedy called the *Bank Note*, now performing with such applause and success at Covent Garden. The Performers (the names of some of whom we hope to be able to give in our next) are selected from the London Houses; and from what we can learn, the liberal Manager appears to possess the ability and spirit to form suitable arrangements for opening such a House.

That Mr. M'Cready intended to conduct his management with spirit is evident. The next theatrical notice gives a list of the "stars" he had engaged for the season. It includes the greatest names in the annals of the stage :—

June 1st, 1795.—THEATRE.—It is with pleasure we inform our readers that the spirited Manager of the Company here, this Summer, has engaged for the public amusement a greater number of the principal London Performers, than ever yet appeared in one season at any provincial theatre. In his list we perceive the names of Mrs. Siddons, Mr. and Mrs. Pope, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Middleton, Mr. Townshend, Mr. Harley, Mr. Cornellys, Mr. Powell, Mr. Richardson, Miss Chapman, Miss Melon, &c. Mr. Byrne and Madam Rossi (indisputably the first dancers, and Harlequin and Columbine in England) are also engaged; as are Master and Miss Standan, the favourite "Children in the Wood," and in the Prize and Tom Thumb. No small pains have been taken to select a suitable Band for the Orchestra. It will be led by Mr. Weir, of Covent Garden Theatre; and Mr. Clark will play the harpsichord.

The new Theatre opened on Monday, June 22, 1795, and we quote the contemporary description of the house :—

THE THEATRE.

June 15, 1795.—We have the satisfaction to announce, that our Theatre opens on Monday next, and we are happy that we can gratify public curiosity with some description of this splendid edifice;—erected from the designs of George Sanders, Esq., Architect, of London, and under the directions of Mr. Norton, of the Crescent, in this town.

Upon entering the House, the eye is struck with its capaciousness, elegance, and richness. Its form, for the audience part of the Theatre, is semi-circular to the box on either side of the stage, which, as far as each extends, takes the line of a circle reversed. Two tier of Sixteen Boxes surround the House; they are decorated with many white enamelled Iron Columns, representing a Bundle of Reeds, the fillet that encircles and binds them, and the vases and capitals, being richly gilt. From above the columns project elegant brackets, which suspend the brilliant glass cut chandeliers. The colour of the inside of the Boxes is a deep pink, the covering of the seats crimson, and the cushions apple green.

The Pit is most ample and commodious, and here the spectator sees, with perhaps better effect, the whole decoration of the House, which, in executing from the Architect's design, does so much credit to Mr. Dixon. He sees as he directs his view,

the elegant ornaments painted on the parapets in Front of the Boxes, the magnificent Ceiling in the form of a Fan, adorned with antique figures and ornaments corresponding with the decoration of the Boxes, and the costly painted Curtain, through which appears, in an opening 38 feet wide, the Stage with the vivid and splendid Scenery of Messrs. Greenwood and Dixon, the masterly execution of which will, we doubt not, confirm and, if possible, increase the celebrity of these eminent Artists.

The Gallery is, perhaps, the largest, and, we may venture to pronounce, one of the best in Europe; and the public's safety and convenience, in coming to and going from the House, has been particularly consulted. The entrance to Box, Pit, and Gallery, is from different Streets; and there is not, what has been so much complained of in other theatres, any step or descent whatever in the entry from the street to the Pit. A handsome Saloon receives the company before they go into the Boxes, and a communication is made from each lobby to the large ball-room in front of the house, where refreshments will be provided; and whither those Ladies and Gentlemen who may wish to relieve themselves between the acts, and the play and entertainment, may repair. We shall now only add, that as the walls of this large fabric (which enclose a space in length of one hundred and nine feet, and in width of seventy-nine) have been erected nearly two years, no apprehension of dampness need be entertained; and observe, that as the Manager seems to vie with the spirit of the Proprietors, by bringing to the first provincial Theatre a Company of Performers superior to any that ever yet left the metropolis, we hope the exertions that have been made, and the great expences incurred for the public's accommodation and amusement, will not be unremunerated. Indeed, we persuade ourselves, that when it is considered how many thousands must have been expended in erecting this sumptuous edifice, and how large an income will be required to support a Company worthy of it, the public liberality will not exact that the admission prices here to the Box and Pit should be *lower* than at other respectable towns in the country. At Liverpool, Bath, Bristol, Richmond, Margate, and Brighton, the Box price is *four shillings*, the Pit *two shillings and sixpence*, and in several of these Theatres when very capital performers appear, those prices are raised; but here it is respectfully proposed to fix upon them, and invariably abide by them. The admission to the Gallery will be as usual, only a Shilling.

A later advertisement informed the public that the house would be illuminated with wax.

The report of the opening is exceedingly brief :—

June 29th, 1795.—THE THEATRE.—Having already given a description of this large and costly fabric, it will now be unnecessary for us to say more upon the subject, than that it was opened with great eclat on Monday evening by Mr. M'Cready* and a London Company; and that to its other recommendations is to be added that the actor's voice is heard in every part of the house with the greatest clearness. No expence or exertions seem to be spared by Mr. M'Cready to afford the public the best amusement; and with that liberality which he has uniformly evinced in all his transactions here, he has made an offer to the Magistrates of the whole receipts of a night, for the benefit of the poor of the town. This offer has been accepted, and the night is fixed for Wednesday next, when we doubt not but the Theatre will be filled by the benevolent of all ranks.

* The father of the famous actor, W. C. Macready. The great tragedian made his first appearance on the stage in this town.

The season was successful. The manager gave a benefit for the poor, and another for the General Hospital. We quote the paragraph relating to the last night :—

September 14th, 1795.—On Friday evening our Theatre closed for this Season. The play (Alexander the Great) was for the Benefit of Mr. Hollman ; and the appearance of the Hon. Mrs. Twisleton, in the character of Statira, contributed in no small degree to fill the House. Mr. M'Cready, the Manager, in a handsome address, took his leave of the town, and expressed in a very feeling manner his gratitude for the countenance and favours he had experienced ; and it is but justice to him to say that, if unwearied exertions, liberality of spirit, and an ardent desire to know and conform in every instance to the wishes of the public, can entitle a man to future favour and protection, no one, we think, can urge a stronger claim than Mr. M'Cready.

The next season opened with much promise ; and we have a few unusually long criticisms, or notices of the performances. We quote one or two of these as illustrations of the time. On June 20, 1796, we have this notice of a comic Opera :—

THEATRICALS.

The comic Opera of the Woodman, performed last week at our Theatre, and received with such flattering marks of general approbation, was brought forward as a most compleat and finished exhibition. Independent of the combined excellence of the performers, singers, and orchestra, the Archery Scene, with the addition of a most excellent and characteristic dance, would have reflected honour upon any Theatre, and cannot, in truth, be equalled by any other group of performers in this kingdom. A repetition of this piece is much wished for by the town, and will be amply supported. The new and favourite musical drama of Lock and Key was acted for the first time here on Friday last ; the performers seemed to vie with each other in the exercise of their various and extensive talents in general emulation for the approbation of their audience, and the entertainment was received throughout with reiterated bursts of laughter and applause.

With pleasure, we understand that a correct copy of the celebrated, popular, and unpublished new comedy of The Way To Get Married, has been obtained (by permission of the Author and the Manager) through the interference of Mr. Lewis, as a testimony of his unceasing respect and attention to the Birmingham audience.

Next we have a criticism of a Pantomime :—

July 11, 1796.—The new Pantomime of "Harlequin Mariner ; or, The Fairy of the Oak," produced last week at our Theatre, is an additional proof that neither pains, labour, or expence are at all considered, when placed in competition with the delight and entertainment of an encouraging public. The incidental business of this excellent exhibition would not have been disgraced in the higher parts of the drama, and might, with great consistency, have been interwoven in a Comedy or Opera. The magic effects produced by the machinery, scenery, and deceptions, were visible to all, and called forth the most tumultuous approbation and applause. The last scene produced a sublime climax of scenic novelty, assisted by the appearance of a group of beauteous children habited in the fascinating garb of cupids, while the interstices of the stage were completely filled up with the most interesting and characteristic female figures, forming an almost entire system of

heathen mythology, as represented in the pantheons of the antients. We may assert, that the united powers of the painter and the mechanic were never offered to the public on the Birmingham Theatre with more effective excellence, nor has the town witnessed in pantomimic exhibition a more interesting and splendid spectacle.

Here is an eulogy upon a once charming actress :—

September 5, 1796.—Miss Wallis.—This accomplished and elegant performer (as much distinguished in private for her worth, as in public for her talents) makes her entree on our stage this evening, for Mr. Middleton's Benefit, in her most admired character in tragedy—Juliet—supported by Mr. Middleton in his best character—Romeo. What must ensure an overflow is, that this is the only night on which she can perform here. It will be remembered, that in Roxalana she received, on the Drury Lane boards last season, the most distinguished applause, where she (by the permission of the proprietors of Covent Garden) performed that part, for the Benefit of the Widow and Children of the late Mr. Storace, and that she had also the honour of receiving a letter from the Gentlemen of the Bar at Edinburgh (at which place she has been performing this Summer) accompanied by a noble present, requesting her to return after her ensuing engagement in London. Add to this, Crouch's pleasing and enchanting "Lullaby," and the expressive "Spirit of my Sainted Sire" of the scientific Kelly, together with that celebrated Letter Duet Scene, from the very much admired Opera of the Siege of Belgrade, and there can remain no doubt that this will prove a dramatic banquet almost unequalled.

The next extract relates to the manager :—

September 25, 1797.—Mr. M'Cready, our Theatrical Director, seems bent upon it to make his exit with an universal grace. To say nothing of what he has done, we cannot but look with an admiring eye upon what he this night means to do. Bannister and Suett's attractions combined, in such favourite characters as the Philpots, Lingo, Daggerwood, Fustian, Scout, and Snarl, are too powerful a temptation to resist, even if a man had made up his mind, as the old saying is, to go to the Play no more this season. It is now some years since we had the pleasure of seeing Suett on the Birmingham boards, but all must well remember that he was the idol of the public then; and as improvement has kept equal pace with his absence, we may expect to see him now "in all the jocund vein of laugh-provoking humour." Bannister has so recently delighted us, that his merits want no memento, as they are registered, "where every day we turn the leaf to read them." Nor do we think it necessary to dwell on what is due to the Manager, whose lavish spirit and unabating ardour to give the public every species of the richest entertainment a Theatre can afford throughout the season, must have entailed upon him an expence enormous, and, indeed, such as, locally considered, is totally unprecedented in the history of the Theatrical World.

To combine amusement with charity is no new invention, and it is not a bad way of raising funds. The "unco gude" sometimes makes a dolorous objection to such a union of this-worldliness with the-other-worldliness, but we believe there is no instance on record that they ever refused the money so obtained. This year a concert was given at the Theatre for one of the noblest objects of charity—"the relief of the

widows and children of the brave men who fell in Lord Duncan's glorious victory off Camperdown." The concert was, as it ought to have been, a success. The criticism is exceptionally minute :—

Nov. 27, 1797.—We have seldom witnessed a more interesting spectacle than was presented at our Theatre on Friday evening last, at the Concert for the relief of the Widows and Children of the brave men who fell in Lord Duncan's glorious victory. One sentiment only appeared to pervade a most elegant and crowded audience ; genuine loyalty, blended with the tenderest sympathy, seemed to burst from every heart. The Concert was honoured with the Company of the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward, Lady Dudley, the Hon. Mr. Shirley and his Lady, Lady Dowager Lawley, Sir Robert and Lady Lawley, Sir George and Lady Yonge, Sir Edmund and Lady Hartopp, and many other of the principal gentry of the neighbourhood, and at the same time exhibited an additional proof of the benevolent spirit which actuates the inhabitants of this town.

We have not yet been able to learn the exact amount of the money received, but it is hoped that, with the addition of 21*l.* presented by the Earl of Aylesford, 10*l.* 10*s.* paid by Lord Dudley for ten tickets, 5*l.* 5*s.* received from Lord Lyttelton, 5*l.* 5*s.* from H. Legge, Esq., 5*l.* 5*s.* from Sir George Yonge, 5*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* from Messrs. Dickenson and Goodalls, the balance of a subscription left in their hands for the relief of a person deceased, and 5*l.* 5*s.* from the party of Marines recruiting in this town, aided further by other contributions which the Committee look for (and which may be left at any of the Banks), they will be able to send at least 400*l.* to the Committee at Lloyd's for the use of this excellent charity,—the Performers, without exception, having rendered their services gratis.

Of the musical talents exerted upon this occasion, it will be observed we have forborne to speak, as one of the most elegant votaries of the Muse (who graced the festival with her presence) has been solicited to testify their excellence ; and we copy her own words :—"Great praise is due to Mr. Jeremiah Clark, of this town, who first suggested the idea of a meeting, that proved rich in the blended gratification supplied by taste for music, by patriotic feeling, and by benevolence. Our concert was adorned by his acknowledged ability in musical composition, and by the accuracy and brilliance of his performance. It was strengthened by the excellent band of the Royal Dragoons, and by the liberal assistance of several Gentlemen in Birmingham and its environs ; and high were its obligations to the Himley Society, exerting at Lord Dudley's request, all their powers to charm ; to the three Syren Sisters, alternately breathing the solemn sweetness and seraphic grace of Handel's pathetic airs, the elegance of the Italian strain, and the simple beauty of the pastoral ballad and glee ; to the celebrated Mr. Knyvett and his Son ; to the two Mr. Lindley's, who gave their assistance at Lord Aylesford's request ; and to the respected veteran of the science, Mr. Champness, whose deep voice rolled its manly melodies ; to the united strength of one of the first choirs in England, of which the varied powers of Mr. Saville's voice, the pathos and energy of his expression, have been long the boast, while they were felt and acknowledged from every distant orchestra which summoned him to their band. He acquitted himself on Friday night with all his wonted animation. The pretty duet by Miss Fletchers, was given in a style which evinced their rising talents ; the fine bass notes of Mr. Birch did justice to Handel's

heroic song; while the full and pleasing tones of Mr. Taylor's voice were distinguished most agreeably in the admirable trios. Thus was this generous concert at once the triumph of the musical profession, and of the virtues.

The great Kemble was with us again in the season of 1799, and here is one notice of his performance :—

July 22nd, 1799.—Never was curiosity so much excited, or so much gratified, as in the representation of Pizarro at our Theatre last week. The Rolla of Mr. Kemble must be acknowledged his chef d'œuvre, and is in itself sufficient to attract the crowded and overflowing houses we have had; but when aided by so excellent a set of performers, such brilliant scenery, dresses and decorations as are brought forward, we cannot but applaud that public taste which so liberally encourages and rewards the great efforts that are made for its entertainment.

Our theatre was this year honoured with distinguished foreign visitors :—

August 5th, 1799.—The Russian Ambassador his Excellency Comte de Worouzoff, who has been for this last week on a visit to Mr. Boulton, of the Soho, and viewing the principal manufactories, mines, canals, &c. in this town and neighbourhood, on Wednesday bespoke the Play at our Theatre, and was so highly gratified by the plaudits of the audience and attentions of the manager, that Mr. M'Cready, we understand, received from his Excellency the most liberal and munificent proof of his approbation. The following song, introduced upon the occasion, the Comte considered as a high compliment to that Imperial Personage whom he, with so much dignity, represents.

When Britain first, at Heaven's command,
Arose from out the asure Main,
This was the Charter—the Charter of the Land,
And Guardian Angels sung this Strain—
Rule Britannia! Britannia rule the Waves,
For Britons never shall be Slaves!
Italia's fair and fertile Plains
Must happy Restoration see;
The brave Suwarrow—Suwarrow breaks their Chains,
And bids her Sons again be free!
Rule, Britannia, &c.
In Europe, two good Monarch's join
To humble France, Religion's Foe;
Great George! the Ocean—the Ocean still be thine,
Whilst Paul on Land directs the Blow.
Rule Britannia, &c.

The seasons of 1800 and 1801 were also distinguished by the presence of actors whose very names fill old playgoers with delight and enthusiasm. Siddons, Pope, Lewis, Harley, Cooke, and Kemble, were among the number, and were supported by good companies, not

appearing as solitary stars in a world of dulness and incapacity. We need not wonder at our grandfathers sighing for the "brave days of old."

At the present time,* Mr. Thurton is amusing the Birmingham people with a very clever and amusing entertainment under the title of Odd Folks. Sixty-six years ago, our forefathers had their Odd entertainment also. *Is* there anything new under the sun?

December 28, 1801.

CARE SENT TO COVENTRY,

By a Set of Odd Fellows.

That is to say—By an Ideal Group of Anacreontic Wags, supposedly met to drive the dull Drone from their jocund Hive; like Sentinels on Guard, all alive to their Duty, with Mirth for their Watch Word and Good Humour for the Countersign, exhibiting, in their own Characters, a laughable Epitome of Every Man in His Humour; and, as they are distinguished by the Name of Odd Fellows, the broad Vortex of their Merriment embraces the following Odd Subjects:—

Odd Travels and Odd Travellers.
Odd Countries and Odd Inhabitants.
Odd Cities and Odd Towns.
Odd Streets and Odd Houses.
Odd Signs and Odd Inscriptions.
Odd Pictures and Odd Paintings.
Odd Figures and Odd Dresses.
Odd Customs and Odd Manners.
Odd Trades and Odd Employments.
Odd Games and Odd Amusements.
Odd Music and Odd Musicians.
Odd Plays and Odd Puppet Shows.
Odd Quacks and Odd Conjurors.
Odd Ghosts and Odd Spectres.
Odd Witches and Odd Devils.

All which Odd Matters are Oddly strung together and set forth in an Odd sort of a Way—*Cum multis Odditibus omnibus* Odd! And in Addition to the Odd Quips and Quiddities of those Quisy Oddbodies, three or four Odd Scraps from the Author's Quondam Budget, such as the Speaking Clock, the Unfortunate Mouse, the Monster in Petticoats, and the Irish Schoolmaster, will be rescued from Oblivion, merely as occasional Hooks and Pins to hang the Novelties of the Night upon.

The whole interspersed with a contrasted Selection of Original Comic Songs, of which not one was ever yet sung by any Person but the Author; and, as he by no Means sets up for a Warbler, the Words, independent of Vocal Embellishments, are what they must stand or fall by in the Estimation of the Public.

* November, 1867.

THEIR TITLES.

Poor Old Jack.	The Irish Watchman.
The Odds on the Right Side.	The Growth of a Lie.
The Theatrical Mutton.	The Golden Farmer.
Little Molly Mac Brawn.	The Life of a Soldier.
Care Completely Brushed Away.	The Bundle of Scraps and
The True British Tar.	The Laughable Chapter of War.

The Doors to be opened at Six, to begin exactly at Seven.

Boxes, 3s.; Pit, 2s.; Gallery, 1s.

The House is rendered perfectly dry and warm, by Stoves, well supplied with Fuel, having been kept in every Part of it for many days past.

Tickets to be had of Messrs. Knott and Lloyd; of Messrs. Swinney and Hawkins; and at the Blue Coat Charity School; and Places in the Boxes are to be taken of Mr. Sanderson, at the Theatre.

And now we let down the curtain on the amusements of this decade

§ 5. MANNERS, CUSTOMS, ETC.

It is a pleasant thing to be able to open this section with a protest against one of the cruellest customs of the time. It is true that such protests are few and far between, and for a long and weary period have little influence, and produce little apparent good. They are, however, the beginnings of improvement; the certain indicators that a change is coming. An evil once protested against is doomed. It is certain to die hard, and to "take a deal of killing;" but killed it assuredly will be. So it was with bull-baiting, cock-fighting, and other barbarous customs of the good old time. Their fate was sealed the moment that good and merciful men began to denounce them. The Legislature might, as it did, defend them; the ministers of religion might, as they did, attend them; but, once set moving, the opinion of the few on such a subject becomes in time the conviction of the many, and Parliament and all other opposing powers have to yield—or rather become converted to the improved feeling which has taken possession of society. Here is one of these early protests against bull-baiting:—

October 8, 1792.—A Correspondent laments, with some degree of astonishment, that, in this neighbourhood (so distinguished for its attention to charitable institutions,) a custom so barbarous as that of Bull-baiting should still have continuance among the common people. A few days ago he beheld a scene upon the public road in a neighbouring parish, that deeply affected his feelings. One of these cruel diversions was just over, and the relentless mob were leading the mangled object of their outrage from the

place where it had been baited. Its nose and lips (lacerated by dogs) seemed strings of bleeding flesh! The species of dog kept for this purpose, never, or very seldom, quit their hold without tearing through the part on which they fasten. The poor abused animal now alluded to had (for four successive days) been tied to a stake, and made to undergo this torture; so broken was its spirit, or so inoffensive was it in its nature, that notwithstanding it had thus experienced injurious treatment sufficient to render it outrageous, it was led along without any resistance, like a lamb, amid its cruel tormentors; nay, even bearing one of the human savages upon its back in patient quietness and submission.

Surely cruelties of this kind may be prevented, by refusing those publicans a licence who either procure the animal (which is sometimes the case) or who supply with liquor the unfeeling rabble who assemble to enjoy the horrid amusement!

Amusement! gracious God! who regardest the "falling sparrow, and feedest the young ravens that call upon thee," are not these things written in thy book? Doubtless they are; and man must account for the cruelties which he wantonly inflicts on the brute creation:—"for all these things God will bring him unto judgment."

Cocking was also doomed when the report of a disgraceful piece of barbarity was prefaced by the words found in the following paragraph:—

November 12, 1792.—Cock Fighting.—This barbarous amusement, we are concerned to say, holds its rank among the vulgar sports that disgrace the country. Gentlemen still countenance the barbarity, and are seldom more elated than when they witness a bloody and hard fought battle. For the credit of humanity, we trust that the report is not true, that a gentleman, near Shrewsbury, betted a wager that his breed of cocks would fight though set on fire. The bet was accepted, and the cock's feathers, which were covered with turpentine, set on fire. The animal, it is said, though roasting alive, fought and killed his adversary in the midst of the flames!

The paper in which this appeared still published such advertisements as this:—

Cocking.

April 1st, 1793.—At the new-erected Pit in Birmingham, will be fought a Main of Cocks, between the Gentlemen of Staffordshire and Warwickshire, to shew and weigh twenty-one Cocks on each side, for Four Guineas the Battle, and Fifty the Main. Likewise ten Cocks on each side, for Two Guineas the Battle, for Byes, and to fight the 22nd and 23rd of April instant.

Rowley, for Staffordshire,
Turner, for Warwickshire, } Feeders.

Lovers of the Sport are requested to be there as early as possible, as they intend to begin precisely at Twelve o'clock.

St. Philip's Churchyard appears to have enjoyed as bad a reputation then as now, when it is the nightly resort of the most depraved characters:—

October 7th, 1793.—On Saturday night, the 28th ultimo, a young woman, very imprudently stopping under a lamp in St. Philip's churchyard in this town to look at her wages, a man came behind her, stopped her mouth, took them from her, and then

knocked her down and made off. It is hoped this will serve as a caution to people in future.

Here is a specimen of a matrimonial advertisement :—

MATRIMONY.

January 9th, 1797.—A Gentleman of Property and respectable Character, who has been well brought up, under 30, healthy, and well situated in Business, finding a Companion essentially necessary, and having but a slight Acquaintance among the Female Sex, adopts this Mode of offering himself a Candidate for the Notice of any Lady inclined to an Hymeneal Union.

A Line addressed to N. O. P., to be left at the Post Office, New Street, Birmingham, with real Name and Place of Abode, will be duly attended to, and the most inviolable Secrecy may be depended upon.

N.B.—The Postmaster has received a Signal to refuse all Addresses but to the Proper Person.

Here is a record of a quarrel and its fatal result :—

August 28th, 1797.—A few evenings ago, two Compositors belonging to the Birmingham Chronicle Office, in consequence of a dispute, fought a battle of an hour and three quarters in a neighbouring field, when they so terribly beat each other, that one of them expired in less than four hours afterwards, and the other is rendered a terrible spectacle to his friends.

The Coroner's inquest sat on the body of the deceased, and returned a Verdict of Manslaughter against the survivor.

Our next extract is a specimen of the "big gooseberry" paragraph :—

Jan. 14, 1799.—That toads in a perfect state have been found in solid rock and marble, and enveloped in the largest and closest grained trees, are facts attested by the most respectable authorities. A similar, and perhaps little less surprising, circumstance was discovered last week by Messrs. Pope and Tart, of this town, who, in sawing an elephant's tooth, found in the middle of it a perfect iron spear head, 6½ inches long; the corroded state of the iron, the firm texture of the ivory, and the well-known longevity of the elephant, render it highly probable that it had been in that situation 40 or 50 years before the death of the animal. Its first introduction into the centre of a solid tooth of six feet length, the writer of this does not pretend to account for, but confines himself to remark, that the spear-head is exactly of the description of those used by the natives in the interior part of Africa, who hunt the elephant.

The following refers to another custom of the time, more honoured in the breach than the observance. It also shows what heavy penalties were inflicted for breaking a fiscal law :—

Nov. 26, 1798.—On Thursday, a young man of this town was convicted in the penalty of twenty pounds (which the Magistrates mitigated to ten pounds) for wearing hair powder without having taken out a licence.

The next two extracts bring before us a case of trance, which ended fatally :—

Jan. 21, 1799.—A Trance.—The gossips in this town have for these two or three days past been quite in a bustle, and full of inquietude, in consequence of its not having been possible to awake, since Tuesday night last, Dorothy Schofield, an old woman, in Dell's Court, Little Charles-street. The poor sleeper breathes very hard.

Jan. 28, 1799.—The woman mentioned in our last, died without awakening on Tuesday last; so that she had slept, without intermission, a whole week.

In dealing with prize-fighters the authorities of the present time might take a lesson from their predecessors. It will be seen from the next quotation that they determined to utilise this class for the good of the State :—

Pitched Battle.

November 23rd, 1795.—Whereas it has been represented to some of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace acting for the Counties of Stafford, Warwick, and Worcester, that a Pitched Battle is intended to be fought between Allcock and Johnson, on Monday the 30th day of November instant, on the borders of the said Counties;—They do therefore hereby give Notice respectively, that if such Battle shall be fought in either of the aforesaid Counties, *they are determined to put the Impress Act in Force, and Arrest and Send on board the Navy, not only the Persons who shall fight, but all others who shall be present and encouraging them.*

A correspondent communicated to the Notes and Queries which appeared in *Aris's Gazette* in 1856, the following record of—

Bull Baiting in Birmingham.

We have received from an old and highly-respected inhabitant of Birmingham, an account of a memorable bull-baiting, which took place in this town in 1798, the occasion being Chapel Wake, a festivity instituted to commemorate the erection of St. Bartholomew's Chapel. On the day in question the bull was baited in a field behind the Salutation Inn, Snow Hill, and in conformity with the wishes of the respectable inhabitants (who desired to put down the nuisance) the Birmingham Association—a body of militia voluntary, formed by the trading class—undertook the formidable task of capturing the bull and dispersing his tormentors. The Association assembled in the Bull-ring, and marched, with colours flying and drums beating, to the baiting-place in Snow Hill. On arriving there they found that the mob, having notice of the attack, had transferred themselves and the bull to Birmingham Heath. Although the day was intolerably hot, the Association gallantly resumed their weary march, and after a due amount of toil reached the scene of action. The bull-baiters scampered off in all directions, taking their dogs with them, but leaving the bull tied to the stake, and the Association leisurely proceeded to secure their formidable prize. A strong cord was made fast to the bull's horns and tied round his fore legs, the chain was unloosed from the stake, guards were told off, who, with fixed bayonets, reconducted the poor animal in triumph into the town, a vast crowd, of course, "assisting" at the novel ceremony. The procession passed through the principal streets, and at last the bull was safely lodged in the yard of the old prison, in Peck-lane. During the night an attempt at rescue was made, but it failed, and for years afterwards the street boys revenged themselves for the disturbance of the sport by singing a song depicting the volunteers in the most uncomplimentary colours. One of the stanzas was as follows :—

"They spoiled the waake,
And pulled up the staake,
And put the bull i' the dungill."*

The bull-baitings were afterwards carried on at Handsworth, where the powers of the Association could not be exercised. On the dissolution of this redoubtable body, its colours were hung up in St. Martin's Church in honour of its valorous exploits—the capture of the bull being the only one involving actual service.

The next notice is one more indication of the growth of an improved state of feeling amongst the better class of the town :—

By Order of the Magistrates.

January 28th, 1799.—We, the Constables of Birmingham, do hereby give this timely Notice, that all Publicans who shall, in future, be found encouraging, or in anywise aiding or abetting, in the inhuman and unmanly Practice of Cock-fighting, or Throwing at Cocks, on Shrove Tuesday, or on any other day, will most assuredly have their Licenses withheld, as we are determined to use the utmost Vigilance in discovering offenders.

John Ryland, } Constables.
James Busby, }

We quote one specimen of the poetic advertisements of this decade :—

Attention.

April 8th, 1799.—To Cheap Cloathing, Wholesale and Retail.—T. John Allin, Hay Market,† Birmingham, begs leave to inform Country Shopkeepers that deal in new and old Cloathes, that they may be accommodated with a greater Choice than at any Shop in London, and at the same low Prices. All Favours will be gratefully acknowledged, By their humble Servant, T. A.

To the Overseers of the Poor.

"May we never want Heads to plan, Hearts to feel, and Hands to execute."

Ye neighb'ring Overseers, who oft to Town repair,
And wish to cloathe the Poor with Prudence and with Care,
I pray you'll condescend to look into my Shop,
I have no kind of doubt your Pence you'll freely drop ;
With ease I can provide with ev'ry Thing complete,
Coat, Waistcoat, Shirts and Shoes, yea, Stockings for the Feet ;
Hats, Breeches, Gowns, Stays, Aprons, Cloaks,
In short, all Things to suit poor Folks—
So cheap, so good, quite strong and sound,
And all this new for one small Pound.

The Farmers, too, I can complete,
With good Smock Frock, both strong and neat ;
Doe-skin Breeches, home-made Shoes,
Or Boots, if he should rather choose ;

* Dungeon, locally pronounced "dunjil."

† Now Ann Street. Allin's shop was the one at the corner of Congreve Street, now in the occupation of Mr. W. Bryan.

Strong Shirts for them I, too, provide,
And every Article beside.
And next, the Gemen of the Whip,
Who oft to London take a Trip;
Good cheap Hose Coats of every Size,
For those who do their Health much prize,
To keep them dry in Time of need—
A useful Article indeed;
'Twill serve sometimes to lend a Friend,
And ofttimes gain a private End;
For in the Wet, I think, indeed,
All those you serve should freely bleed.

May the Rich be charitable, and the Poor grateful;
May we always feel for another's Distress;
And may the Tears of Distress be wip'd away with the soft
Paper of Abraham Newland.

"To Err is Human
To forgive is Godlike."

In the year 1800 a bill was introduced into the House of Commons to prevent bull-baiting. On a division, it was lost by a majority of two in a house of 84. The following brief abstract of this memorable debate will be amusing to the modern reader:—

BULL-BAITING.

April 21, 1800.—Sir W. Pulteney moved the consideration of the Bill to prevent Bull-baiting.

Mr. Windham arose to oppose the further proceeding in this Business. It did not invite Legislative interference, and he thought the poor laboured under too many restraints in their Amusements. In France and other countries they might dance at will, and see plays all night; but here, if a *hop* or a pantomime were announced, the Magistrates were instantly in arms. It was politic and prudent to encourage athletic exercises amongst the lower classes; and, if heads were occasionally broken in these contests, that was their affair. There was a species of glory in these conflicts, as acceptable, perhaps, to the individual, as that which was courted in the higher walks of life; and it was to be remembered, in the words of the Poet, "that he, who subdued the world," might, under different circumstances, have been only "the first wrestler on the green." He should be sorry if the breed of bull dogs were extinct—since the days of Augustus they were emblematic of the national character. There was no more cruelty in bull-baiting than in hare-hunting, or shooting of game. If the House was inclined to prohibit any of these, they should set the example by the abolishing those which were almost peculiar to themselves, before they interfered with the diversions of the common people. He should, therefore, move to defer the consideration of the report to this day six months.

Mr. Canning supported Mr. Windham's argument. He did not think this was a matter which called for a Legislative provision, nor that any Legislative proceeding could be correct which militated directly against the bent, the feelings, and the spirit of the people. Bull-baiting to this hour was encouraged throughout all Spain.

Sir W. Pulteney said, the object of his Bill was to promote humanity and prevent idle meetings. In Shropshire, to his knowledge, persons would assemble at a Bull-baiting to the number of between 1,200 and 1,400 people.

Sir Richard Hill confirmed this statement, and observed, that in Staffordshire the practice was a source of perpetual disturbance, and of regret to the friends of Humanity.

Mr. Sheridan thought the laws ought to render all cruelty to the brute creation a misdemeanour, and, with much wit, remarked on some of the arguments of Mr. Canning and Mr. Windham ;—the former, he observed, had alluded to the Bull-fights in Spain ; to which practice, no doubt, it was to be attributed, that the valour of the Spaniards shone so eminently conspicuous *above* that of our British Sailors. But there was one very essential point of distinction between the Bull-fights of Madrid, and the Bull-baiting in this country. In the former case it was the men who fought, not dogs ; men it was who partook of the danger as well as the sport. In England the case was directly reversed. Here the animal was fastened to a stake, and a pack of ferocious dogs let loose upon him. The human savages who assisted at this cruel sport were merely spectators, not actors. As to Mr. Windham's anxiety for preserving the *amiable* race of bull-dogs, he must tell him that the bull-dog was not an animal of an open and courageous nature. It was a sly, sulky animal, that bore a strong resemblance to certain political characters, in this respect, that the bull-dog slyly attacks, and when once he fastens, never lets go his hold, no more than certain placemen would let go their place while they could stick to it.

On a division, Mr. Windham's motion was carried—for it 43, against it 41. Bill thrown out by a majority of two.

The next quotation brings before us another of the pleasant customs of the times :—

July 21, 1800.—Between ten and eleven o'clock on Thursday night last, as a gentleman, in his own carriage, with his wife and sister, were travelling into this town from Lichfield, on their road to Bath, they were stopped in the narrow cross Lane opposite Aston Park corner (which way carriages are now obliged to take whilst the road is mending) about a mile distant from the town, by two footpads, with crape over the upper part of their faces, one of whom stood at the head of the horses, whilst the other, opening the chaise door, took from the gentleman and his wife their very valuable gold watches and seals, and also from the gentleman his purse and pocket book, containing gold and bank notes to the amount of about thirty pounds. Upon shutting the carriage door, the gentleman requested the robber to return him a few memorandum papers (useless to any one but himself) that were in his pocket book, when the man told him they should be sent to him in the morning, and ordered the postillion to drive on ; but to add to the fright of the ladies, it happened very unfortunately that they had not proceeded fifty yards before the pole of the carriage broke, and they were obliged to get out and walk the rest of their way to the Swan Inn, in this town.

The next morning our very active Constable, Mr. Millward, having received from the gentleman a description of the man who opened the chaise door, suspected a particular person, whom in a short time he found in an auction-room in the High-street, and taking the gentleman into it, the moment he entered, he pointed out John Thornhill (of pugilistic notoriety) as the man who actually robbed him. Mr. Millward immediately apprehended him : on Saturday he was taken before our Magistrates, and the gentleman swore positively

to the lower part of his face and to his voice, and the ladies and postillion to the similarity of his voice to that of the robbers :—whilst, on the other hand, three persons deposed he was at a public house in Moor-street all Thursday evening. He has, however, been fully committed by the Magistrates to Warwick gaol, to take his trial at the coming assize. The man who stopped the horses has not been apprehended.

We close this decade with the report of a scene disgraceful to our civilization. In September, 1800, eight men were hanged at Warwick, one for sheep stealing, and seven for forgery. It is horrible to think of the sacrifice of life caused by the inhuman laws of this period. No wonder that the people were fond of cock-fighting, bull-baiting, pugilism, and other barbarous sports, when the Legislature continually afforded them such spectacles as that detailed in the following report :—

EXECUTION AT WARWICK.

September 1st, 1800.—Friday last presented a truly awful spectacle in our County Town, amidst the greatest concourse of people ever assembled upon a like occasion. Eight malefactors were executed ; viz., W. Hewitt, for sheep stealing ; J. Mould, T. Wilmot, T. Wells, W. Wells, T. Reeves, J. Astley, and T. Forster, for forging and uttering counterfeited notes, with intent to defraud the Governor and Company of the Bank of England. May the impression then made upon the minds of the spectators be lasting, may they ever remember that "honesty is the best policy," and may they have the wisdom to prefer a moderate income, and a progressive increase of wealth, accompanied by a tranquillity of mind generally consequent upon honest industry and economy, to the desire of gain without labour, and to a sudden increase of wealth, accompanied by perpetual anxiety. The latter desire was the bane of these sufferers, as they generally acknowledged ; and such is the hardness of heart acquired by habitual vice, that one of the malefactors declared he was forging notes on the very day he knew his acquaintance, Henshaw, was executed at Coventry. How careful then ought they to be who have the care of the rising generation, or are the guardians of the public morals, to check the first swerving from rectitude.

Notwithstanding these unhappy men all acknowledged their guilt, and appeared penitent, and little as could be their hopes of escaping from such a prison, yet we find that they had conspired to make their escape, even if it involved the destruction of those who were administering to them every comfort and consolation. Happily their diabolical intentions were frustrated by the compunction of a man whom they had made their confidant, and who was to have made a diversion to effect their purpose in another part of the gaol.

T. Wells, with view to make some atonement to the public, desired it might be made known that the forged notes in which he was concerned, and on which the water-mark was impressed by a tool, might always be discovered from real Bank of England notes, by completely damping and afterwards drying them, when the forged water-mark would entirely disappear.

In consequence of the desperate design of these convicts, they finished their devotion within the prison, and were hung in fetters, being cautiously brought upon the new drop at the gate of the gaol, and tied up as they came out one by one, and, in a very few minutes after their appearance, were launched into eternity.

THE BIRMINGHAM DISPENSARY.

In the year 1792 the Birmingham people began another work of charity, which has been of immense service to the suffering poor, and is still numbered among our many useful and beneficent institutions. On November 19, in that year, the following paragraph was published :—

> We are happy to hear that it is in agitation to establish a Dispensary in this town—a charity so beneficial to the poor that we are surprised it has not been thought of before now. The first Dispensary in this country was set on foot in London, in the year 1770, by a few private individuals. The number of subscribers for the first year did not exceed 100, and its fund only amounted to 158*l.* In 1772 the Governors had increased to 300, the fund to 397*l.*, next year to 909*l.*, till in the year 1778, the subscribers amounted to 14,000. By the report of that year it had admitted 5,820 patients, and in less than seven years 25,450. After this the advantages of this institution became so obvious, that in the course of a few years they were adopted in various parts of the metropolis, and in all the considerable provincial towns, patronised by numerous subscribers, among whom were many persons of distinguished rank, so that Dispensaries are now general in England, Scotland, Ireland, on various parts of the Continent, West Indies, and America. One has been long established in Dublin, and assisted by grants of money from the Irish Legislature.

The proposal for a Dispensary was not allowed to sleep. On February 11 a paragraph appeared having reference to a similar institution in Philadelphia, U.S., which was said to exhibit "an application of something like the Mechanical Powers to the Purposes of Humanity. The greatest quantity of Good is produced in this Way with the least Money." Mr. Charles Pye, in his Description of Birmingham, in the year 1818, gives the following brief history of this useful charity. "This laudable institution originated among a select society, and was carried on in a private manner for some time, until they were joined by the late Matthew Boulton, Esq., who took it under his patronage in the year 1793, when a house was taken in Temple Row, and an establishment formed, he taking upon himself the office of treasurer, saying, 'If the funds of the institution are not sufficient for its support I will make up the deficiency.' It continued in Temple Row, supported by voluntary subscriptions and donations, until the year 1808, when a commodious building having been erected for the purpose in Union Street, at the expense of more than two thousand pounds, the establishment, consisting of a house apothecary, another for compounding

and dispensing of the medicines, and a midwife, removed there. Those who have previously received a recommendation are here accommodated with medical advice and assistance gratis, and the females in the time of need are attended at their own dwellings by the midwife, as are also sick patients, who are too ill to attend personally."

The first annual report was presented at a meeting held November 7, 1794, Mr. Matthew Boulton in the chair. From this report it appeared that 325 patients had received medical advice and assistance at their own houses, of which number 246 were sick patients, 48 *midwifery*, and 31 inoculation patients. That the encouragement given to the institution, and the peculiar benefits resulting to the poor, had been such as to have determined the committee to take a house, and engage an apothecary, whose whole time should be devoted to the service of the charity. The house in Temple Row was soon found to be inadequate for the wants of the new charity, and in 1806 a subscription was opened for the purpose of providing a more commodious building. On December 1 we read that "our ingenious townsman, Mr. W. Hollins, has finished a drawing of the intended new building for the Dispensary, which will this day be exhibited at the Printer's of this paper."

In the *Gazette* of the following week this additional information is given :—

DISPENSARY.

December 15th, 1806.—The friends of this valuable institution will be happy to see such a respectable list of subscribers to the new building about to be erected in this town for the purposes of the charity, as will be found in our first page ; and we trust that in another week we shall find the number considerably increased, in order to enable the committee not only to provide an attached dwelling-house for the midwifery attendants, but to administer those comforts to the poor women of this class of patients of which they so frequently stand in need, and which the scanty funds of the institution have hitherto prevented the committee from supplying. The building committee have fixed upon the plan produced by Mr. Hollins, which may be seen at the Printer's of this Paper, and the foundation stone will be laid in a few days.

The stone was laid on December 23, and we select from the report this account of the ceremony :—

NEW DISPENSARY.

December 29, 1806.—On Tuesday morning the Low Bailiff of the town, the Clergy, the Bailiff and other Governors of the Free School, the Physicians and Surgeons of the Institution, with many other respectable Inhabitants, assembled at Style's Hotel, where an elegant breakfast was prepared, after which the Company proceeded to Union Street,

where every thing was in readiness to begin the foundation of the new building to be erected in that street for the purposes of the charity. About eleven o'clock the Low Bailiff laid the first stone, upon the top of which there was a brass plate, with the following inscription :—

"The first stone of this Dispensary for the inhabitants of Birmingham was laid by Thomas Potts, Esquire, Low Bailiff, on the 23rd Day of December, 1806, in the 47th year of our Sovereign Lord, King George the Third.

JOHN ROTTON, Esquire, High Bailiff.

"Medendæ valetudini nullam non humanam, opem adhibeamus, nullam non divinam imploremus."

After the ceremony was finished, the Low Bailiff addressed the meeting in nearly the following words :—

"Gentlemen, in expressing the warmest wishes of my own heart, I am persuaded I shall express those of yours also—That the blessing of Heaven may ever rest on this Institution ; That the poor of Birmingham may never be destitute of the assistance it is intended to impart ; That its means and its usefulness may go on in progressive enlargement from year to year ; and That its beneficial influences may descend to the latest posterity."

The new building was opened in 1808, and from the last report we learn that, during the year which ended December 31, 1866, 7,100 sick patients, and 356 midwifery patients received medical and surgical aid, and 1,169 vaccinations were performed. The total number of patients from the foundation of the Institution, in 1793, to 1866, was 328,312, divided into 196,834 sick, 36,065 midwifery, and 95,413 vaccination cases ; a splendid record of services rendered to suffering humanity by the Birmingham Dispensary.

THE WORLD OF SOHO.

One of the most important undertakings, not only to the trade and prosperity of Birmingham, but to the trade and prosperity of the civilized world, was the founding of Soho by that "great Captain of Industry," Matthew Boulton. Here it was that some of the most remarkable inventions were applied to, and discoveries made in, manufactures, and in the application of art to trade. Here gas was first used; here coining was made an art; here plating was perfected; here a thousand-and-one novel applications were tried and experiments made to lessen the amount of labour, and to improve the articles produced in this epitome of the manufacturing world ; and here, to crown all, that bloodless revolutionist, that greatest saver of time and

SOLD

Built 1765 Taken down 1863

toil, that truest, most potent, and never-wearying friend of man, the steam-engine of James Watt, was brought to perfection. The labours of Boulton and Watt at Soho changed the commercial aspects of the world.

Before the erection of this manufactory, Mr. Boulton carried on business in Snow Hill, as a "toymaker;" the word meaning a manufacturer of buttons, buckles, and the enormous variety of trinkets known in the Birmingham trade as "toys." He was, however, a man of vast ideas. His manufacturing ambition was enormous. We have seen in the record of the public life of the town from 1781 to 1791, the important part which Mr. Boulton took in all questions affecting trade and commerce. He resolved to be a Prince of Manufacturers, and to spread his name throughout the trading world; and some time before he began his work at Soho, the Snow Hill premises had become too small for his actual business; but when compared with the business which the ardent and sanguine Boulton contemplated, he indeed felt himself "cabined, cribbed, confined," and resolved to erect a world of his own—the World of Soho.

Mr. Smiles, in his excellent Lives of Boulton and Watt, gives the following account of the site, and the beginning of the work :—

"Soho is about two miles north of Birmingham, on the Wolverhampton road. It is not in the parish of Birmingham, nor in the county of Warwick, but just over the border, in the county of Stafford. Down to the middle of last century the ground on which it stands was a barren heath, used only as a rabbit-warren. The sole dwelling on it was the warrener's hut, which stood near the summit of the hill, on the spot afterwards occupied by Soho House; and the warrener's well is still to be found in one of the cellars of the mansion. In 1756, Mr. Edward Ruston took a lease of the ground for ninety-nine years from Mr. Wyerley, the lord of the manor, with liberty to make a cut about half a mile in length for the purpose of turning the waters of Hockley Brook into a pool under the brow of the hill. The head of water thus formed was used to drive a feeble mill below, which Mr. Ruston had established for laminating metals. He also built a small dwelling house about 150 yards from the mill, and expended upon the place a sum of about £1000 in all. When Mr. Boulton was satisfied that the place would suit his purpose, he entered into arrangements with Mr. Ruston for the purchase of his lease, on the completion of which he proceeded to rebuild the mill on a larger scale, and in course of time removed thither the whole of his tools, machinery, and workmen. The new manufactory, when finished, consisted of a series of roomy workshops conveniently connected with each other, or capable of accommodating upwards of a thousand workmen. The building and stocking of the premises cost upwards of £20,000."*

* Lives of Boulton and Watt. By Samuel Smiles. p. 167.

Mr. Boulton bought the lease from Mr. Ruston in 1762, but the mill, which he rebuilt, was soon too small for "his great designs," says Mr. Morfitt, and, "in 1764, he laid the foundation of the present superb manufactory, which was finished the next year, at an expense of £9,000." Dr. Darwin, who was a friend of Mr. Boulton, writing in 1768, says of Soho, "Here are toys and utensils of various kinds, in gold, copper, tortoiseshell, enamels, and many vitreous and metallic compositions, with gilt, plated, and inlaid works, all wrought up to the highest elegance of taste and perfection of execution." It was in 1767 that Watt paid his first visit to Soho, but it was not until 1774 that he entered into partnership with Boulton "in the manufacture of Steam Engines." In Swinney's Directory of the same year we have this short but clear description of Soho when Watt became so intimately connected with its future fortunes:—

"This place is situated in the Parish of Handsworth, in the County of Stafford, two Miles distant from Birmingham. The building consists of four Squares, with Shops, Warehouses, &c., for a Thousand Workmen; who, in a great variety of Branches, excel in their several Departments; not only in the fabrication of Buttons, Buckles, Boxes, Trinkets, &c., in Gold, Silver, and a variety of Compositions, but in many other Arts, long predominant in France, which lose their Reputation on a Comparison with the product of this Place: and it is by the natives hereof, or of the parts adjacent, (whose emulation and taste the Proprietors have spared no Care or Expence to excite and improve) that it is brought to its present flourishing State. The number of ingenious mechanical Contrivances they avail themselves of, by the means of Water Mills, much facilitates their Work, and saves a great portion of Time and Labour. The Plated Work has an appearance of solid Silver, more especially when compared with that of any other manufactory. Their excellent ornamental Pieces, in Or-Molu, have been admired by the Nobility and Gentry, not only of this Kingdom, but of all Europe; and are allowed to surpass anything of the kind made abroad. And some Articles lately executed in Silver-Plate shew that Taste and Elegance of Design prevail here in a superior degree, and are with Mechanism and Chymistry, happily united. The environs of this Building was, Seven Years ago, a barren, uncultivated Heath; though it now contains many Houses, and wears the appearance of a populous country; and notwithstanding the number of People in that Parish is double what they were a few years since, yet the Poor's Rates are diminished, which is a very striking instance of the good effects of Industry."

A new power, besides "Water Mills," was now to be introduced to Soho. After many unsuccessful experiments and trials, running through a period of four years, success attended the labours of Watt.

"In November, 1774, Watt wrote Dr. Roebuck informing him of the success of his trials; on which the Dr. expressed his surprise that the engine should have worked at all, 'considering the slightness of the materials and its long exposure to the injuries of the

weather.' Watt also wrote to his father at Greenock: 'The business I am here about has turned out rather successful; that is to say, the fire-engine I have invented is now going, and answers much better than any other that has yet been made; and I expect that the invention will be very beneficial to me.' Such was Watt's modest announcement of the successful working of the engine on which such great results depended."*

In the *Gazette* for August 15, 1791, we have a report of the rejoicings at Soho on the coming of age of Mr. Boulton's son. It gives us a pleasant glance into the inner life of the manufactory, and so far as we know, it has not been reprinted in any life of Boulton, or in any history of Soho :—

HOLIDAY AT SOHO MANUFACTORY.

August 15th, 1791.—It is much to the honour of the workmen at Soho, that, in conformity to the wishes expressed by their employers, not one of them was absent from the Manufactory during the late Riots. Soon after the military arrived at Birmingham, and tranquility was restored, Mr. Boulton took an opportunity of thanking his people for the good order they had observed, and, at the same time, invited them all, with the women and children employed in the manufactory, to dine with him on Monday, the 8th of August, being the Birthday of his son, and when he became of age.

The morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells at Handsworth and at Birmingham. At one o'clock, all the persons employed in the Manufactory assembled within its walls, and were marshalled into regular corps, according to their respective trades, from whence they marched, two by two, preceded by an excellent band of civil and military music.

First corps. One hundred young women, mostly dressed in white, with blue ribbons.—Second. A corps of fifty Engineers, headed by Perrins, in the character of Vulcan, bearing a working Fire Engine on his head, followed by the Cyclops, with huge hammers on their shoulders, and closed by one of them carrying a Copying Machine.—Third. Six corps of Buttoneers, 50 in each, with the ensigns of their respective trades; viz., gilt, plated, steel, inlaid, white-metal, &c. Each ensign consisted of a large sheet of pasteboard, suitably decorated with great taste, and closed with a Bee-hive, composed of small buttons, as an emblem of industry.—Fourth. Two corps of Artists employed in the silver, plated, and or-molu manufacture. The first bore a silver Epergne, and the last two golden vases, upon a stand covered with a crimson velvet.—Fifth. The workmen employed in the Rolling Mills, carrying an ensign composed of fillets of rolled metal of various colours, forming festoons, loosely playing, and which had a pretty effect.—Sixth. A corps of Moneyers, carrying a glass vase, filled with Coin.

The procession moved in regular order from the Manufactory through the lower part of the Soho Gardens, and round the extremity of the grounds, whilst Mr. Boulton's friends were seated upon the lawn at the front of the house. The gradual appearance of the procession, rising from behind the hill, with the martial music playing, the extent of the procession (for the rear of it was not in sight when the van had passed the lawn), the good order, their cleanly dress, with the joy and happiness that sparkled in every eye, afforded the highest pleasure to all the benevolent beholders. During this interval, the Stewards, Butlers, and Cooks, were employed in placing dinner upon the tables. The

* Smiles, p. 205.

procession continued its march through the plantation down to the terrace in front of the Manufactory, and was closed by the Visiting Friends. Upon their arrival, the musicians entered an orchestra (which had been erected for the occasion, decorated with laurels and flowers), the several corps took possession of their respective tables, and there fixed their standards. Mr. Boulton, with his Friends and Partners, entered a Dining-room, where an excellent dinner, with a fine turtle, was prepared for them. Meanwhile, all were seated at the six tables on the terrace, each accommodating 100 persons, besides two tables in the long rooms, consisting, in the whole, of upwards of 700 persons.

At a signal all arose, and, with hats off, Grace was pronounced, accompanied with a short exhortation, to be merry and wise. The Holiday was proclaimed, and the music ordered to strike up the Roast Beef of Old England, and dinner began. Every dish had its carver appointed, and each table its waiters, so that everyone dined comfortably, without the least disorder or confusion. When dinner was ended, the Band played, and the company sung, as Grace, Not unto us, O Lord, &c. The tables being cleared of the eatables, the company prepared for the rights of Bacchus.

The first Toast given was The King! followed by three huzzas. Song, God Save the King, by Mr. Stanley, with the chorus by all the company.—2. The Queen! A Glee by Probin, Stanley, &c.—3. The Prince of Wales. Song, See the Conquering Hero comes, &c.—4. The Duke of York and the British Army. Song, Britons, Strike Home, by all the company.—5. The Royal Tar and the Navy of Old England, with Rule Britannia in full chorus.—6. All the Royal Family, and a Glee. The hills around being now covered with thousands of spectators, Mr. Boulton and his son withdrew to make them a visit, and to exhort them to peace and good order. Finding the Fireworks could not be seen to advantage from the manufactory, he promised to have them let off from a proper eminence; and, as a testimony of his good will, gave them a hogshead of ale.

During their absence, the company drank three toasts, viz.—

7. Mr. Boulton, and many happy years to him.

8. His Son, and many happy returns of this day.

9. May Boulton and Birmingham continue an honour to our country for many generations.

At Mr. Boulton's return, he gave All the Manufacturers of Old England. This was followed by a song, paraphrased from one by G. A. Stevens, in praise of the Birmingham and Soho Manufacturers, with which all the people were highly delighted.

When the health of Mr. Boulton, junior, was drunk, a Balloon, with a complimentary inscription, was launched, and a song from Rosina was sung, in which all the company joined in chorus, This is Nature's Holiday. The Country Dances now begun (upon a boarded platform previously prepared for that purpose) in which part of the company from the dining-room joined; but the dancers being too large for one set, they divided into three, with as many bands of music.

The Dancing continued until evening. A Balloon was again sent up; Rockets and Cannon were discharged; to these succeeded some beautiful Fireworks prepared by Mr. Neale, and at ten the closing gun was fired, when all peaceably departed in the highest good humour, and those who came to Birmingham had the satisfaction of being preceded upon the road by the martial music.

The Soho Foundry at Smethwick, built by Messrs. Boulton, Watt, and Sons, was completed in January, 1796, and the "Rearing Feast"

was celebrated on Saturday, the 30th of that month. In the *Gazette* of the following Monday we find this very graphic report of the feast. It affords us a good insight into the fine character of Matthew Boulton :—

SOHO FOUNDRY.

On Saturday last the Rearing Feast of the new Foundry, lately built by Messrs. Boulton, Watt, and Sons, at Smethwick, was given to the engine-smiths, and all the other workmen employed in the erection.

Two fat sheep (the first fruits of the newly-cultivated land at Soho) were sacrificed at the Altar of Vulcan, and eaten by the Cyclops in the Great Hall of the Temple, which is 46 feet wide and 100 feet long. These two great dishes were garnished with rumps and rounds of beef, legs of veal, and gammons of bacon, with innumerable meat pies and plum puddings, accompanied with a good band of martial music. When dinner was over, the Founder of Soho entered and consecrated this new branch of it, by sprinkling the walls with wine, and then, in the name of Vulcan, and all the Gods and Goddesses of Fire and Water pronounced the name of it Soho Foundry, and all the people cried Amen. A benediction was then pronounced by him upon the undertaking, and a thanksgiving offered for the protection and preservation of the lives and limbs of the workmen during the erection. These ceremonies being ended, six cannon were discharged, and the Band of Music struck up God Save the King, which was sung in full chorus by two hundred loyal subjects. After this, many toasts were given suitable to the occasion, by the President of the Feast, Mr. M. Robinson Boulton, which was conducted by him with great spirit and hilarity ; each toast was accompanied with three joyous huzzas and a discharge of cannon. A Ball, with tea, was given in the evening to Venus and the Graces, which ended about ten o'clock, when the concluding guns were fired, and all departed in good humour.

The Address of Mr. Boulton, Sen., upon entering the Foundry, was conceived in the following terms :—After making an excuse to the company for not dining with them, he said, "I could not deny myself the satisfaction of wishing you a happy and joyous day, and expressing my regard for all good, honest, and faithful workmen, whom I have always considered as classed with my best friends.

"I come now as the Father of Soho, to consecrate this place as one of its branches ; I also come to give it a name and my benediction.

"I will therefore proceed to purify the walls of it, by the sprinkling of wine, and in the name of Vulcan and all the Gods and Goddesses of Fire and Water, I pronounce the name of it Soho Foundry. May that name endure for ever and ever, and let all the people say Amen, Amen.

"This Temple now having a name, I will propose that every man shall fill his pitcher, and drink success to Soho Foundry."

Mr. B. then proceeded to give the Establishment his benediction :—"May this Establishment," said he, "be ever prosperous, may no misfortune ever happen to it, may it give birth to many useful arts and inventions, may it prove beneficial to mankind, and yield comfort and happiness to all who may be employed in it.

"As the Smith cannot do without his Striker, so neither can the Master do without his Workman. Let each perform his part well, and do their duty in that state to which it hath pleased God to call them, and this they will find to be the true rational ground of equality.

"One serious word more, and then I have done. I cannot let pass this day of festivity, without observing that these large piles of building have been erected in a short time, in the most inclement season of the year, without the loss of one life, or any material accident. Therefore let us offer up our grateful thanks to the Divine Protector of all things, without whose permission not a sparrow falleth to the ground. Let us chaunt Hallelujahs in our hearts for these blessings, and with our voices, like loyal subjects, sing God Save Great George our King!"—Which was done in full chorus, and amidst the discharge of the cannon.

Bisset, in his Poetic Survey round Birmingham, published in 1800, has the following lines on Soho :—

"Soho!—where Genius and the Arts preside,
Europa's wonder and Britannia's pride,
Thy matchless works have raised Old England's fame,
And future ages will record thy Name ;
Each rival Nation shall to thee resign
The Palm of Taste, and own—'tis justly thine ;
Whilst Commerce shall to thee an altar raise,
And infant Genius learn to lisp thy praise :
Whilst Art and Science reign, they'll still proclaim
Thine ! ever blended with a Boulton's name."

William Murdock, one of the many men of genius whom Boulton had gathered around him, was the inventor of "gas." In 1798 several of the offices in Soho were thus lighted ; and "on the general illumination which took place in celebration of the Peace of Amiens in 1802, the front of Soho Manufactory was brilliantly illuminated with gas, to the astonishment and admiration of the public." The *Gazette* of April 5 gives the following report of the

Illuminations at Soho,

which for elegance and boldness of design, grandeur of effect, and promptness of execution, will remain unequalled amongst the numerous testimonies of joy displayed on the happy occasion of returning peace. The well known taste and abilities of the liberal proprietors of those premises had given the public every reason to anticipate a very superb and brilliant exhibition ; accordingly, early in the afternoon, the road from this town was crowded with passengers. The gates of the gardens were thrown open and gave admittance to many thousands of spectators, of whom, it is but justice to observe, that such was their orderly behaviour, that they departed almost without breaking either shrub or tree, or doing any damage. The house was adorned on the summit of the roof by a magnificent star, composed of variegated lamps, and the centre window was embellished by a beautiful transparency, in glass, of a female figure, in the attitude of offering a thanksgiving for the return of peace. The manufactory was illuminated throughout its spacious front with upwards of 2,600 coloured lamps, disposed into the forms of G. R., with the word "Peace," above which was placed the crown, with a star of exquisite brilliancy. In the centre of the front, a transparency represented a dove, the emblem of peace,

descending on the globe; on the left wing, another represented the Caduceus of Mercury between two Cornucopias; and on the right, a beehive decorated with flowers. In addition to the above, three very splendid Mongolfier balloons ascended in succession from the courtyard within the manufactory at proper intervals, on a signal from the discharge of cannon. Numbers of sky-rockets also tended to enrich the scene. The whole gave the greatest satisfaction, and produced, in the minds of the spectators, tokens of admiration aud sentiments of respect for the munificent projector. Every house in the neighbourhood was also splendidly illuminated; and all the workmen belonging to the manufactory were regaled at public houses.

In 1809 Murdock was examined before a Parliamentary Committee on the subject, and Mr. Smiles relates the following characteristic anecdote. "Do you mean to tell us," asked one member, "that it will be possible to have a light *without a wick!*" "Yes, I do, indeed," answered Murdock. "Ah, my friend," said the legislator, "You are trying to prove too much." It was as surprising and inconceivable to the honourable member as George Stephenson's subsequent evidence before a Parliamentary Committee, to the effect that a carriage might be drawn upon a railway at the rate of twelve miles an hour *without a horse.*"*

The Soho was the place to which men of inventive genius turned as to their natural home. Within its walls were employed a very large number whose names have become famous in the annals of industry. In addition to the master of them all, James Watt, and Murdock, and Eginton, the well-known John Wyatt, who was connected with Lewis Paul in his great invention of spinning by rollers, worked here during his later years. As respects the respective claims of these two men to the great invention, Mr. Smiles says, in a note to his excellent work on the Huguenots, "So far as we can judge from the Wyatt MSS.,† Paul was the inventor of the principle of spinning by rollers, and Wyatt, the skilled mechanic, who embodied the principle in a working machine. In a letter addressed by the latter to Sir H. Gough, he describes himself as 'the principal agent, I might almost say the sole compiler of the machine for spinning.'" Mr. Smiles adds, "Wyatt afterwards proved his ability both as a mechanic and an inventor. The machine for weighing loaded carriages, still in use, was invented by him.

* Pp. 428-9.

† All these MSS. have wisely been secured by the Free Libraries' Committee for the Birmingham Reference Library, where they can be consulted by any one interested in this important episode of our local industrial history.

Among his other inventions was a method of neutralising the friction of wheels, by surrounding the wearing parts of the axle with three or more cylinders enclosed in a steel box impervious to dust—an invention for which several patents have since been taken out, and in one of which Wyatt's expedient has been applied with success in railway turntables. Another of his contrivances was a double lathe, of beautiful construction and arrangement, for cutting out of bone the mould in which a peculiar button was formed, which proved of much use in the Birmingham trade. During the latter years of his life he was employed by Matthew Boulton, to whom he was of great service in erecting the machinery for Soho. He died in 1766, and his funeral was attended by the principal inhabitants of Birmingham—Baskerville, the printer (also descended from a French refugee), a man of eccentric character, arraying himself on the occasion in a splendid suit of gold lace."*

The fame of Soho was so widely spread that no distinguished visitor ever came to Birmingham, or to any place in the neighbourhood, without going over the manufactory. So early as 1776, Katherine II., Empress of Russia, was a guest of the great manufacturer. In a letter to Watt in that year he mentions the fact, and adds "and a charming woman she is." Royal and noble personages were continually inspecting the wonders of this seat of the arts. But what is of still greater importance to us, a large number of the learned and scientific men of the time, as well as the great contemporary leaders of industry, were his friends. Amongst these we may name Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Day, R. Lovell Edgworth, Samuel Galton, Dr. Withering, John Baskerville, Dr. Priestley, Josiah Wedgwood,† Dr. Darwin, Dr. Parr, Dr. Small, Mr. Keir, Sir Joseph Banks, Sir William Herschel, and his own still more famous partner, James Watt. Many of these were members of the notable Lunar Club, which did so much for the progress of science and its application to manufactures. Indeed, into his hospitable house, *l'hotel de l'amitie sur Handsworth Heath*, as he loved to call it, Boulton, at various times, gathered all that was famous, gifted,

* The Huguenots, their Settlements, Churches, and Industries, in England and Ireland. By Samuel Smiles. Note to p. 424. In the appendix will be found the admirable account given by this lucid writer of the great invention of Lewis Paul and John Wyatt.

† For a full and reliable account of the life and labours of the great potter, see Miss Meteyard's splendid book the Life of Josiah Wedgwood.

and renowned, in Great Britain, as well as all the distinguished foreigners who visited this country in those troublous times.

In 1797 Mr. Boulton was appointed by the king to execute the new copper coinage, of which we have the following account :—

COPPER COINAGE.

June 26th, 1797.—The King has finally issued his warrant to empower Mr. Boulton, of Soho, to execute a considerable Copper Coinage of penny and twopenny pieces. Having seen specimens of them, we think the following statement may be acceptable to our readers :—

No Guinea, or other national Coin, now in circulation in any country is round, or of equal diameter, for want of being struck in steel collars, as medals are, which is of great importance in gold coin in particular, as a gage is applicable to such money, and thereby base gold may be detected; and, though this is not so necessary in copper coin, yet by means of such a gage, counterfeits may be ascertained, and at all events it forms an handsomer and smoother edge than it otherwise could be. This circumstance has also enabled Mr. Boulton to establish a coincident between our measures, weights, and copper money.

The twopenny pieces will weigh 2 ounces each, and eight of them measure one foot.

The penny pieces will weigh 1 ounce, and seventeen of them measure two feet.

The halfpenny pieces will weigh $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce, and twelve measure one foot.

Hence every individual will have a set of weights, and the means of detecting false ones; and there is no doubt but the poor will be able to obtain a penny worth for a penny, as sixteen of them weigh one pound, whereas most of the counterfeit halfpence are 84 to a pound. Twenty tons of copper are now used weekly at Mr. Boulton's Mint, in effecting this useful coinage.

The extent of this work may be gathered from the fact that from 1797 to 1805 Mr. Boulton "coined, under contract for the British Government, upwards of 4,000 tons weight of copper coin, amounting, at its nominal value, to nearly £800,000."* And on this princely scale was carried on the work of industry in the World of Soho.

The men who made the World of Soho were now beginning to pass away. On Monday, March 25th, Francis Eginton died; and the following obituary notice appeared in the *Gazette* :—

April 1st, 1805.—Died, on Monday, after a very long and painful illness, in the 68th year of his age, Mr. Francis Eginton, of Handsworth, celebrated as the restorer of the art of painting upon glass, which he carried to a state of excellence never attained at any former period, uniting with colours brilliant as those produced by the ancients, a fulness of effect, a propriety of light and shade, and a delicacy of execution of which they gave no examples. The numerous and great works he executed will long remain monuments of his taste and skill, and bear testimony of the unremitting application to his

* Birmingham Coinage, by Ralph Heaton; in "Birmingham and Midland Hardware District," p. 555.

profession. While the public suffer by the death of an ingenious artist, his numerous friends, to whom he was endeared by the constant exercise of every amiable quality, testify in their regret how much they feel the loss of a virtuous and upright man.

In four years after the great Father of Soho himself bade farewell to the scenes of all his triumphs, but left behind him a name which will last while men are capable of giving honour to whom honour is due. Matthew Boulton was among the very highest in that noble *role* of captains of industry for which this land is happily so famous. He died on the 17th of August, 1809, at the ripe age of 81, rich in years, and rich in honours, and rich in the blessings of thousands to whom his persevering and indomitable spirit had given employment. The entry of his death is as follows :—

DIED.

August 21, 1809.—On Thursday last, at his house at Soho, Staffordshire, Matthew Boulton, Esq., F.R.S., &c., aged 81. No less distinguished by the energies of his mind, employed during a long and active life in improving various manufactures by his science and taste, and in founding extensive establishments, whereby he has advanced the trade and prosperity of his country, and acquired a very general and justly-merited celebrity, than by his generous encouragement of the useful arts, his kind and benevolent disposition, and the liberality of his sentiments. His memory will be long honoured with affection by his friends, and with gratitude by the many who benefited by his talents and virtues. The inhabitants of this his native town can never cease to cherish the recollection of their excellent neighbour and benefactor, and a grateful country will inscribe his name among the great and good.

The scene at his funeral was specially affecting, and is thus described by the contemporary chronicler :—

MR. BOULTON'S FUNERAL.

August 28th, 1809.—Never have we witnessed a more affecting ceremony than the last sad tribute of respect paid with equal solemnity and sorrow to the remains of this excellent man. On Thursday last, his body was borne from his house to the grave at his parish church of Handsworth, by some of his oldest workmen, attended by his son, by a large assemblage of his relatives and friends, and by all the individuals connected with his manufacturing and commercial establishments. Many thousand persons attended on the mournful occasion, the decorum of whose conduct bore a respectful testimony to the general estimation of his virtues. The sorrow of his friends was still more impressive; and the silent sympathy of the numerous workmen unfeignedly and affectionately demonstrating the greatness of his value and of their loss! Magnificent in his manufacturing establishments, and noble in his reception of ingenious and celebrated men of all countries, he dignified the character of the British manufacturer. The variety of his talents was only equalled by his liberality in the promotion of every useful art, and the pure honour and integrity which marked his commercial transactions added a lustre to his general worth. In the emphatic words of the solemn service on this occasion, "His body is buried in peace, but his name liveth evermore."

Matt.ew Boulton

24th. June 1787

Wm. Allan Medallion modelled from life in the possession of
Wm. Jons. Rawose

It was ten years before the still greater Watt followed his friend and partner to the bourne whence "no traveller returns." He parted with life quietly and peacefully on the 25th of August, 1819, in the eighty-third year of his age. He was buried near his deceased friend and partner, Mr. Boulton, in Handsworth Church. Over his remains, which lie in a side aisle, was placed a monument by Chantrey, perhaps his finest work, justifying the compliment paid to the sculptor, that he 'cut breath;' for when first uncovered before the old servants assembled round it at Soho, it so powerfully reminded them of their old master, that they 'lifted up their voices and wept.'"*

Mr. Smiles gives August 19 as the date of Watt's death. This, however, is a mistake, for we read in the *Gazette*, published on Monday, August the 30th, 1819, "On Wednesday last, the 25th of August, at his house at Heathfield, James Watt, Esq." This simple obituary notice is followed by a warm tribute to the memory of the simple great one gone :—

By the death of this truly great man our country is deprived of one of its most illustrious ornaments. Mr. Watt may justly be placed at the head of those philosophers who have improved the condition of mankind by the application of Science to the practical purposes of life. His steam engine is probably the most perfect production of physical and mechanical skill which the world has yet seen, while in the variety, extent, and importance of its application, it certainly far transcends every similar invention. So great was the activity and power of his mind, that he not only embraced the whole compass of science, but was deeply learned in many departments of literature: and such was the felicity of his memory, that it retained without effort all that was confided to it. He was still more distinguished, not only by the highest prerogative of genius, promptness and fertility of invention, but also by its rare and happy union with a calm and sagacious judgment, regulated and matured by those habits of patient attention and investigation, without which no great production of human art was ever carried to perfection. His manners were marked by the simplicity which generally characterizes exalted merit; he was perfectly free from parade and affectation; and though he could not be unconscious either of the eminent rank he held among men of science, or by those powers of mind by which he had attained it, yet his character was not debased by the slightest taint of vanity or pride. He had for many years retired from business, but his mind continued actively employed on scientific improvements. He perfected an apparatus for the medical application of factitious airs; and the amusement of his latter days was the contrivance of a machine for imitating and multiplying statuary, which he brought to a considerable state of perfection. Happy in his domestic connections, in the complete enjoyment of his extraordinary intellect, respected and beloved by the wise and good of every country; and having attained the great age of eighty years, his useful and honourable life was terminated, after an illness of short duration, rather of debility than of pain, by an easy and tranquil death.

* S. Smiles. Lives of Boulton and Watt. p. 507.

Mr. Watt was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1784; of the Royal Society of London in 1785; and a Member of the Batavian Society in 1787. In 1806 the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him by the spontaneous and unanimous vote of the Senate of the University of Glasgow; and in 1808 he was elected a Member of the National Institute of France.

William Murdock survived until as late as the year 1839, and on the 15th of November, in his 85th year, he died at his house, at Sycamore Hill, Handsworth. And thus passed away the last of the men whose genius and labours have made for ever famous the World of Soho.

THE UNION MILLS.

The scarcity of 1795, besides calling forth the charity of the wealthy, was productive of some permanent good by the establishment of Union Mills in the town. A subscription was raised to buy foreign corn, and to make it into cheap bread to be sold to the poor. When, however, the corn arrived, it was found that "neither wind nor water mills could be worked to grind it." Mr. William Bell then suggested that a steam mill should be provided. This suggestion was made in the right time, and on September 21 of this year the following paragraph was published :—

We are happy to hear that some of the principal inhabitants of the town have it in contemplation to forward a plan for the erection of a steam mill, for the purpose of grinding corn for the consumption of this town.

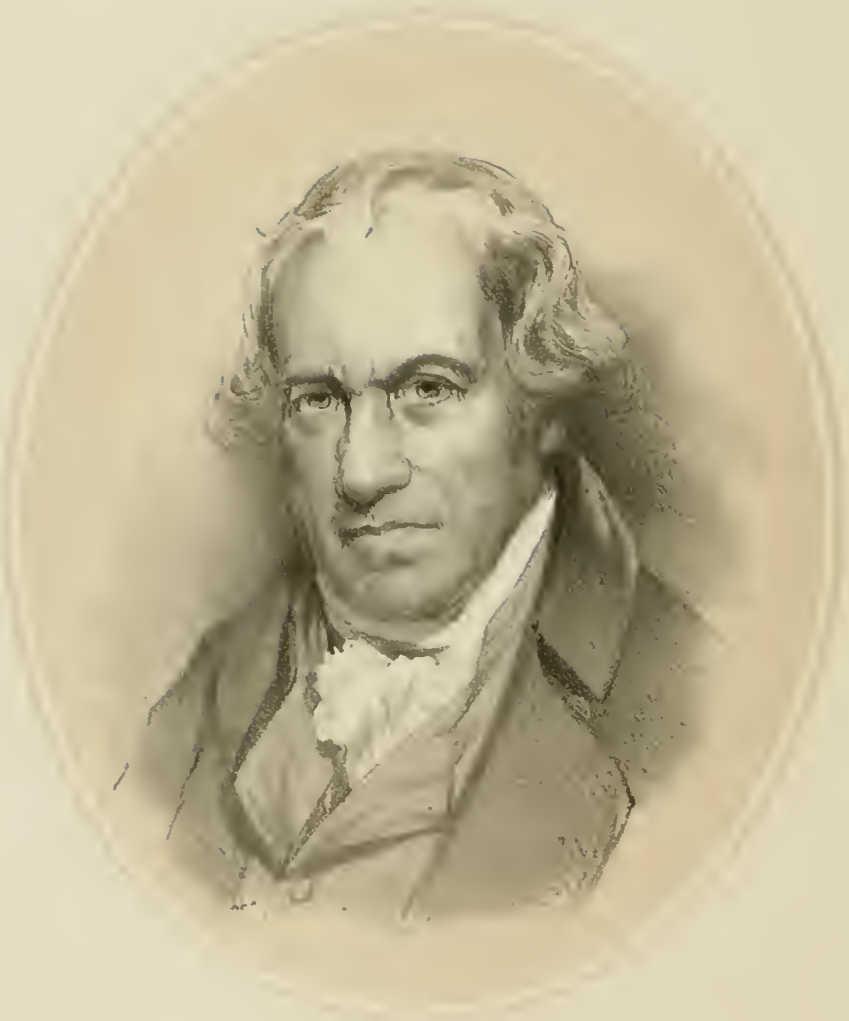
The scheme of the projector is admirably detailed in the following letters, which, we believe, were from the pen of Mr. Bell :—

PRO BONO BUBLICO.

February 1st, 1796.—The Practice of monopolizing Corn is arrived at a Pitch that calls upon the Public for every Exertion to check the Progress of so alarming an Evil. It is the Duty of all Countries, Ages, and Descriptions of People, to unite in one common Endeavour to render, disincumbered as much as possible, the principal Sustenance of Human Life, from the various Hands through which it passes before it arrives at the Consumer. The following Extracts will in some measure explain the Variety of Profits. The Distresses of the Poor are too obvious to need Illustration. To alleviate their Miseries is the Duty of every one who possesses Ability. The following Plan is respectfully offered to the Patronage of the Public, which, carried into effect, cannot but tend to the desired End of reducing the Price of Bread, which regulates the Price of almost every Article of Provision.

Suppose 14,000 of the Inhabitants of this Town were to enter into a Subscription at one Guinea each, for the following Purpose :—

To erect a Steam Mill capable of grinding Wheat to the Amount of 100*l.* daily.



JAMES WATT

To build a Bakehouse, with Ovens sufficient for baking the same into wholesome Bread.

10-000*l.* it is to be presumed would be an adequate Sum for building the said Premises, of course 4,200*l.* would remain to purchase Grain at the most convenient Markets.

Proper Persons, under the Directions of a Weekly or Monthly Committee, appointed to manage the different Branches of this Concern, and whose Income was dependant on the Success of the Business, would find it their advantage to promote its Interests.

Being thus conducted, I would undertake to prove, that, on grinding, there would not be a less Profit after every Expence than a net Five per Cent.

To limit the Profit on Baking to a net Five per Cent. after all Expences of Firing, Workmen, &c., &c. Suppose, then, that the 14,000 Subscribers would daily consume 100*l.* in Bread—that to every Guinea Subscription to deliver One Shilling worth of Bread weekly, the same to be paid for on Delivery. The Business thus duly regulated, the Return of 100*l.* daily is made certain, which of Course produces a daily Profit of 10*l.*, weekly 70*l.*, yearly 3,640*l.*

Upon a moderate Calculation there are six Times that Number of Inhabitants in Birmingham, consequently, was such a Plan adopted by the whole Town, it would, according to the above Statement, produce a Sum amply sufficient to pay the Poor's Rates. The Staff of Life would be thereby rendered wholesome and on moderate Terms, and prevent the many shameful Impositions the Public, Rich as well as Poor, now labour under, by these extravagant Profits.

The Corn Badger's Profits are not less than . . .	5 per Cent.
The Miller	5 per Cent.
The Baker	5 per Cent.
The Baker allows the Breadseller	5 per Cent.
	20 per Cent.

I doubt not but it will be allowed by all who have a Knowledge of the various Branches thus stated that I have not exaggerated.

An Inhabitant of Birmingham.

Pro Bono Publico.

February 15th, 1796.—(No. 2.)—The general satisfaction given by a Paper circulated on the 13th ultimo, entitled 'Pro Bono Publico,' proposing a Plan for the Reduction of the exorbitant Price of Bread, certainly demands our most serious Consideration, and, if properly attended to, will benefit the Public, particularly the necessitous part of it. Whatever opposition it may receive, must arise from interested Individuals. Every Inroad upon an established Business, whether to check Monopoly, or for the direct Service of the Community at large, will still be subject to the unprincipled Attacks of those who are the Cause of it. Interference at this period to prevent loading the Public with unnecessary Dealers, in an Article that is the Basis of human Subsistence, is highly commendable. It is scarcely possible to suppose, on Sight of so many Impositions, any Kind of Combination between them could exist (notwithstanding the present Laws to prevent such a compact seems to exclude any idea of a rational Plan), but the Illusion vanishes upon Inspection, and we are daily convinced of the illegal Confederacy formed to enhance the Price of Grain in various Stages before it arrives at the Consumer. The common Good ought to be the great End of all our Actions; and it becomes our indispensable

Duty to use every Endeavour to crush that which, if not timely resisted, would inevitably overwhelm us. The late Harvest was to have relieved us, and the Produce was amply sufficient; but still the Evil reigns triumphant, and a slight Reflection will convince every unbiassed Mind of the Collusion existing from the Farmer down to the Huckster, all uniting in one Scheme of general Depredation.

To parry off the Urgencies of the People, many specious Pretences have been used to lull and deceive us; and even now, that the Imposition may continue, they say, The Market will be glutted with Grain shortly, therefore bear with it a little longer. Shallow Artifices! Why delay that which is within your Power? Unite in the adoption of a Plan, the great and general Utility of undeniable Proofs, and applauded by every intelligent Man. Refer to the various Associations formed to suppress Monopoly and regulate the Market, such as the Fish Shop, Timber, Cooper, and Brass Companies; exclusive of their Success, they have checked the avaricious Views of designing Men. If Examples of a higher class are necessary to convince the Unthinking, or correct prejudiced Obstinacy, look at a bright Example in the Marquis of Hertford, whose Knowledge and Humanity are equally conspicuous by his Liberality to the Inhabitants of Alcester and its Vicinity. Even on the contracted scale of his present Mill, he is enabled to distribute of good and wholesome Bread Seven Pounds Weight for One Shilling; whilst here we have only from Four Pounds Eight Ounces to Five Pounds for the same Sum. His Lordship, satisfied with the Benefits arising from public Works for grinding Corn, &c., has determined to erect extensive Mills, sufficient for the Consumption of the Neighbourhood where he resides. At Chesterfield, likewise, the Inhabitants have associated for similar laudable Purposes; at Sheffield they are going largely upon the same Scheme; and at several different Places Measures are pursuing, all tending to the same great and good End.

When the Albion Mills worked, the Advantages to the Metropolis were very considerable, there was a net Saving of Three Shillings and Fourpence to the Public upon every Sack of Flour sold from that Mill, by which Computation it saved London 173,333*l.* in One Year. Supposing Birmingham to be, upon a Calculation, in the Proportion of one-tenth of the Inhabitants to those of London, the Saving would to Birmingham be Seventeen Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty-three Pounds per Annum, exclusive of the Proprietors' Profit.

These Things taken into our serious and mature Consideration must undoubtedly overrule every Objection to the Establishment of public Works, particularly when the Profits are restricted to moderate Bounds, and those devoted to the Service of the Inhabitants. It will also enable the Baker to pursue his Trade with a fair Profit; will restrain the inordinate Avarice of the Miller; and effectually cut off that useless, mischievous Lumber, called Badgers.

AN INHABITANT.

The scheme met with public support. The subscription, which closed on April 20, had reached to between £6,000 and £7,000. A meeting was held on the 30th, at which the company was formed, and other important resolutions passed :—

FLOUR AND BREAD.

Birmingham, April 30th, 1796.

At a General Meeting of the Subscribers to the Plan for Reducing the Price of Flour and Bread, held agreeably to public advertisement in Aris's Gazette of Monday last, at the

Hotel, in Temple Row, on Friday, the 29th Instant; Wm. Villers, Esq., in the Chair; the following Resolutions were proposed and unanimously agreed to :—

I. That this Meeting do form themselves into a Company, under the Name of the Birmingham Flour and Bread Company, for the purpose of purchasing Grain, and manufacturing it into Flour and Bread, and distributing the same to the Subscribers at Prime Cost.

II. That the Subscriptions be divided into Shares of One Pound each, and no Person be permitted to hold more than Twenty such Shares, either in his own or any other Person's Name, unless such Person becomes possessed of more by Will.

III. That a Committee be appointed by Subscribers present, with discretionary Power, to conduct the Business of the Company for Twelve Months, but that they be not empowered to purchase or erect any Building without the sanction of a General Meeting.

IV. That the Committee consist of Twenty-one Persons, each of which is a Subscriber for not less than Five Shares, and that Five be competent to act.

V. That a Deposit of Ten per Cent. be immediately made by the Subscribers to this Undertaking; and that all future Calls shall be in that Proportion, at such Times as the Committee for the time being shall find it necessary.

VI. That Messrs. Dickenson and Goodall be Treasurers to this Company.

VII. That a General Meeting of the Subscribers shall be called upon the Friday in every year which shall happen to be the nearest the 20th Day of April, and that a true State of the Affairs of the Concern shall be then laid before them.

VIII. That the Committee be empowered to admit the Overseers of the Poor, and Governors of the General Hospital, and the Governors of the Charity Schools, as Subscribers, in order that those Establishments may receive the Benefits which may be derived from this Institution.

IX. That the Subscription be re-opened at the several Places where it has hitherto been received.

X. That the first Meeting of the Committee be held at the Hotel, in Temple Row, on Friday next, the 6th Instant, at Seven o'clock in the Evening; and that they have power to adjourn from Time to Time, and from Place to Place, as they may judge proper.

XI. That the Committee have also the Power to call a General Meeting of the Subscribers whenever they see fit.

XII. That upon the Death of any of the Committee, the Remainder have Power to fill up the Vacancy from the Subscribers at large.

XIII. That Shares in this Company be transferable, subject to the second Resolution.

XIV. That the following Gentlemen compose the Committee :—Wm. Villers, Esq.; Wm. Hicks, Esq.; Mr. John Ward, Dale End; Mr. Joseph Taylor, Silversmith, Newhall Street; Mr. Thomas Warner, Ditto; Mr. Wm. Bingley, Islington; Mr. Thomas Cheston, St. Paul's Square; Mr. Joseph Barber, Great Charles Street; Mr. Joseph Townshend, Newhall Street; Mr. Jesse Simmons, Great Charles Street; Mr. Thomas Baxter, Newhall Street; Mr. John Cooke, Cherry Street; Mr. Edward Wilkes, Temple Street; Mr. Humphry Vale, New Street; Mr. Christopher Law, Paradise Street; Mr. John Heeley, Holloway Head; Mr. Thomas Forty, Caroline Street; Mr. Richard Jefcoate, Great Charles Street; Mr. William Whitmore, Newhall Street; Mr. Richard Greaves, Islington; Mr. Thomas Chapman, Bull Street.

XV. That the Thanks of the Meeting be given to the Chairman, for accepting the Chair, and for his impartial Conduct therein.

W. VILLERS.

On August 22 this appeared :—

We have the pleasure to learn that the Committee for managing the Flour and Bread Subscription have at length taken a suitable piece of land, adjoining the town, for their Mill and Ovens, &c., and are preparing immediately to erect one of Messrs. Boulton and Watt's steam engines, for the purpose of carrying the objects of the subscription into execution.

At a meeting held on May 8, 1797, a committee was elected to conduct the business for the ensuing year. They were :—

William Villers, Esq.; William Hicks, Esq.; Messrs. Joseph Taylor, William Whitmore, Richard Greaves, Thomas Chapman, Thomas Warner, William Bingley, Joseph Barber, Joseph Townshend, Thomas Baxter, Edward Wilkes, Thomas Torty, Richard Jefcoates, Christopher Law, James Goddington, Benjamin Hughes, Thomas Barnard, Thomas Rock, Edward Wright, Aaron Meeson.

July 10th, 1797.—We have the pleasure to state that the public Corn Mill of this town is now in full work, and to the philanthropic and scientific eye, there cannot be a more gratifying object than the powerful and beautiful Engine of Messrs. Boulton and Watt, which puts in motion the whole machinery that thus prepares the staff of life for the sustenance of man. Upon the principles on which this concern is conducted, it must be attended with great advantage to the Subscribers; and the neighbouring Farmer will also participate in its benefits; for if he can produce good samples, he may be sure of always finding a weekly ready money market for his corn.

The advantages of such a mill to the public are given in the following parallel passages on the price of bread in London and in this town :—

Feb. 25, 1799.

In London the Quartern Loaf of 4lb. 5 oz. 8 drams, is at present sold for Eightpence Half-penny, equivalent to a Loaf of 6lb. 8oz. 7 drams for One Shilling.

Birmingham Union Mill sells to its Subscribers a Loaf of 9lb. 3oz. for One Shilling; and its Second Flour at 35s. per sack. So that Birmingham is supplied with three pounds nine drams more of Bread for One Shilling than the people of the Metropolis.

On September 30, 1799, we also read :—

The advantages derived by the inhabitants of this town from the establishment of the Union Flour and Bread Company we have before shewn, and a correspondent enables us again to mention them. In addition to a dividend of 10 per cent. which is declared, each subscriber has received a benefit in the reduced price of bread of more than 600 per cent. per annum, for the use of his capital.

The new Union Mill was founded on the same plan, and by the same gentleman, in the year 1797.

TREASON AND SEDITION.

The horror with which the excesses of the French Revolution were regarded by the vast majority of Englishmen, and the foolish conduct of Fox and his friends in the House of Commons, enabled the government of the day to carry whatever repressive measures they pleased. In May, 1791, the King issued a proclamation for the suppression of seditious writings and criminal correspondence, which was followed by some of the most disgraceful trials in England and Scotland which stain the annals of our country. Yet such was the terror of the dissemination of French principles in this country, the Government was encouraged rather than opposed by the nation. Except from the small band of Whigs in Parliament, and the earnest minority of Reformers outside its walls, the people were in favour of all that Pitt did, and would have supported even severer measures than those which he introduced and passed. Birmingham was not behind other towns in this display of blind and confiding loyalty; and the people of this town fully proved that the spirit which produced the Church and King Riots in 1791 was still the dominant one. The King's proclamation was issued in May, and early in June a meeting was held, at which it was resolved unanimously :—"That an Humble and Loyal Address be presented to His Majesty, from this Town and Neighbourhood, expressive of our Attachment to the Constitution of this Country, and our Gratitude for His Majesty's late gracious Proclamation for the Suppression of seditious Writings and criminal Correspondence." And on Friday, the 15th of the same month, the following address was presented to the King at the levee by "our worthy magistrate, Joseph Carles, Esq., and most graciously received. Mr. Carles had, afterwards the honour of kissing his Majesty's hand:"—

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood of Birmingham.

Most gracious Sovereign,—We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood of Birmingham, beg leave humbly to approach your Royal Person with sentiments of the warmest gratitude and affection for the provident wisdom and paternal care manifested by your Majesty's late gracious Proclamation, issued at a time when the seditious writings of some, aided by the secret machinations and criminal correspondence of others, were avowing disaffection to our

excellent constitution, threatening the subversion of all order, and the destruction of those invaluable privileges which have justly rendered these kingdoms the envy and admiration of the world.

When we reflect on the success of our manufacturers, the decided superiority of our commerce over that of other nations, the uncontrouled enjoyment of our property, and the free exercise of civil and religious liberty, blessings secured to us by your Majesty's mild and auspicious government, we cannot help expressing our surprise and indignation that there should be found in your Majesty's dominions a subject so insensible to the blessings he enjoys, as to be capable of uttering a murmur of discontent, or a wish for any innovation so particularly dangerous at the present period.

That your Majesty may long live the Father of your People, and the illustrious Guardian of those wholesome Provisions established at the Revolution; and that your people may ever be sensible of and grateful for the invaluable blessings we enjoy, under your Majesty's benign Government, are the sincere and hearty wishes of your Majesty's most faithful and loyal subjects.

Associations were formed in all the large towns to assist the Government in carrying out its policy of suppression, and in destroying liberty of speech, under the specious plea of calling all opposition to the Government or its measures sedition. On November 20 an Association for preserving Liberty and Property against Republicans and Levellers was formed at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, London. An influential requisition was presented to the High Bailiff of this town, Thomas Cooper, to call a meeting for a like object. The requisitionists were "impressed with the Patriotism of this Association, and conscious of the necessity of opposing the progress of Sedition in every shape." The meeting was held on December the 7th, and the report of its proceedings, and the resolutions agreed to, will show the objects of these loyal associations.

Birmingham, December 7, 1792.—At a most numerous and respectable Meeting of the Inhabitants of this Town and Neighbourhood, held this Day at the Hotel, agreeable to public Advertisement, for taking into Consideration the Propriety of forming an Association for the Protection of Liberty and Property against Republicans and Levellers;

The High Bailiff in the Chair;

The Sentiments of the Gentlemen associated for the like Purpose at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, in London, as published by them on the 20th of November last, having been read,

It was unanimously Resolved,

1. That this Meeting do form itself into an Association for the Preservation of Liberty, Property, and the Constitution of this Country, against Republicans and Levellers.

2. That we do most heartily and fully coincide with the Sentiments contained in the Paper published by the Association, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, in London, November 20th last, and adopt them as our own.

3. That this Association will, to the utmost of their Power, exert themselves in suppressing and discouraging seditious Publications, by bringing to Justice the Authors and Publishers of such Writings.

4. That this Meeting, deeply sensible of the invaluable Privileges derived to Britons by a Constitution which extends to every Citizen the Protection of equal Laws, and in the Administration of whose Government Liberty is so happily connected with Order, cannot but lament every Violation of that Order, or any Attempt to disunite those who, as Men and as Fellow Citizens, can have but one Common Object—the Prosperity, the Honour, and the Preservation of their Country; and, that this Meeting is determined, at the Risk of their Lives and Fortunes, and in Aid of the Civil Magistrates, firmly to oppose and discountenance, by every legal and vigorous Method, whatever attempt may be made, and under whatever Pretext, to disturb the Public Tranquility,—being convinced, that nothing will conduce more to the healing of our Divisions, or serve so effectually to promote the great Objects of this Association.

5. That a Subscription, not exceeding One Guinea each Person, be immediately entered into for the Support of this Association, and the Money lodged in the Hands of Wm. Dickenson, Esq., who is hereby appointed Treasurer.

6. That the Subscription Books be opened at the Public Office, and at Mr. Pearson's, and Mr. Swinney's.

7. That a Committee of Twenty-one be appointed to conduct the Business of this Association, and that Five be competent to Act.

8. That Sir Robert Lawley, Bart., the High Bailiff, Joseph Carles, Esq., the Rev. Dr. Spencer, Isaac Spooner, Esq., H. G. Lewis, Esq., E. Carver, Esq., C. W. Willis, Esq., the Rev. Dr. Croft, the Rev. Mr. Curtis, the Rev. Mr. Madan, Wm. Dickenson, Esq., Wm. Villers, Esq., Mr. Wallis Mason, Mr. Wm. Hicks, Henry Clay, Esq., the Rev. Richard Smith, Robert Coales, Esq., and the Rev. Mr. Burn, be the Committee.

9. That Mr. Brooke be appointed Secretary to this Association.

10. That the first Meeting of the Committee be held on Monday next, at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, at the Hotel; and that they have Power to adjourn from Time to Time as they judge proper.

11. That Copies of these Resolutions be printed, and Books prepared by the Committee for the Signatures of such Persons as wish to put their Names thereto.

Sir Robert Lawley having read and delivered to the Chairman the following Letter:—

"Mr. Taylor presents his Compliments to Sir Robert Lawley. He is to much indisposed to attend the Public Meeting to-day, at the Hotel. He assures him he shall ever exert the utmost of his Power in Support of the King and Constitution, and shall always be glad to join with his Neighbours in endeavouring to promote the Peace of Birmingham, which he is sorry to say has been hitherto so ineffectual.

Spark Hill, Dec. 7, 1792."

And likewise the subsequent Resolution of the Dissenters—

"An Invitation being made by Sir Robert Lawley and other Gentlemen to the Dissenters, to unite with the Members of the Establishment in the Business of To-morrow, the Dissenters are sorry that it is not in their Power to act with them on that Occasion, the Form of the Advertisement being objectionable, but are happy in expressing their Attachment to the King and Constitution, and will be glad to co-operate with the Gentlemen of the Establishment, in every Means that may be deemed necessary to promote

Peace and Harmony in the Town of Birmingham. That the Resolution passed this Evening be conveyed to the Gentlemen who appear on Behalf of the Establishment, and that they be informed, that should the Meeting To-morrow appoint a Deputation to confer with the Dissenters, they will be happy in an opportunity of concurring in the Measures necessary for promoting the Peace of the Town, and will immediately appoint a Committee for that purpose.

JOHN TAYLOR,
Chairman to the Dissenters.

Birmingham, Dec. 6, 1792."

It was also unanimously Resolved,

12. That a deputation be appointed to meet the Dissenters, to confer with them on the Subject.

13. That the Committee of this Association be desired to appoint a Deputation from their own Body.

14. That the Committee be authorised to add to their number five Gentlemen from the Body of Dissenters, provided on the intended Conference they shall be found willing to unite with them, for carrying the great Objects of this Association into Effect.

15. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Mr. Villers, for the very able manner in which he introduced the Business of this Day.

16. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Rev. Mr. Proud, and others, Members of his Congregation, calling themselves the New Jerusalem Church, in this Town, for the Expression of their Attachment to the Constitution and Government of this Country, contained in his Letters read to the Meeting.

17. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Sir Robert Lawley, Bart., for his Attendance this Day, and for his constant Readiness to assist in every Measure conducive to the Prosperity of the Town.

18. That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Joseph Carles, Esq., and the Rev. Dr. Spencer, for their unwearied Exertions as Magistrates.

19. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the High Bailiff, for having called the Meeting, and his able Conduct in the Chair.

THOMAS COOPER, Chairman.

This brief editorial paragraph shows the character of the meeting, and the unanimity of its proceedings :—

Birmingham, December 10.—On Friday the most numerous and respectable Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood, ever known in this place, was held at the Hotel in Temple Row, agreeably to an advertisement from the High Bailiff, who having taken the chair precisely at eleven o'clock, Mr. Villers in an elegant speech addressed the Meeting, and introduced the business of the day; and after reading the sentiments of the Gentlemen who associated at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, on the 20th of November last, he proposed that the Meeting should adopt them as their own, and form itself into an Association for the preservation of Liberty, Property, and the Constitution of this Country; which was immediately agreed to by the company. This and the other resolutions proposed were received with loud acclamations and applause, and such was the unanimity of the numerous assembly, that they all passed without a Dissenting Voice.

Several of the societies in the town took independent action on this subject. The "Loyal True Blues," and the "Church and King Club," were, as might have been expected from their titles, the first in the field :—

ASSOCIATION OF LOYAL TRUE BLUES.

December 3rd, 1792.—This Society have agreed to meet at the Union Tavern, in Cherry Street, and the Church, in Church Street, this Evening, December 3rd, 1792, in order to consult upon proper steps to be taken to suppress the Publication of all treasonable and seditious Writings, and to defend Our Beloved King, his Government and Subjects, their Liberty and Property, from all Attempts of the Republicans and Levellers; for promoting Peace, and aiding the Magistracy of this Kingdom in bringing to Justice all who shall dare to offend against the Laws of this Country.

The Society will, at the same Time, take into Consideration the providing proper Places for meeting in future; and request all His Majesty's good subjects to step forwards and assist their Views for preserving the Peace, Happiness and Prosperity of this Kingdom.

It is earnestly wished that all Persons favourable to this Design will signify it by inserting their Names in the Books now open for that Purpose at the above Places every Evening, from seven till ten o'clock.

God Save the King.

CHURCH AND KING CLUB.

Birmingham, November 5th, 1792.—A General Meeting of the Members of this Society will be held at the Hotel in Temple Row, Birmingham, on Tuesday, the 27th of this instant November, at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon. Dinner to be on Table at Three o'clock; and Tickets, at Two Shillings and Sixpence each, to be had at the Bar of the Hotel.

This Society being founded upon true Constitutional Principles, wishes to give an Opportunity to every loyal Subject to become a Member, and for that Purpose has appointed a previous Meeting to be held at Hobson's Tavern, in Worcester Street, in Birmingham, on Tuesday, the 20th instant, at Twelve o'clock. Such Gentlemen, therefore, in this Town and Neighbourhood, as are desirous of being admitted into this Society, are requested to signify their Intention to Edward Carver, Esq., the President, or to Mr. John Brooke, Secretary.

Mr. Morfitt wrote two songs for the Loyal True Blues. A verse from each will suffice to give the reader some idea of the spirit of the times, and of the calibre of the poet :—

"This beauteous scheme of things
Shall *Panic*, sworn foe to *Kings*,
By scribbling shake!
Shall low-bred villainy,
Brawling equality,
Plunder your property?
Britons, awake!"

"*We* never will swerve from *Old Liberty's* Road,
But tread in the Paths which our *Fathers* have trod;
False Patriots, through wild Speculations may range,
The World may run mad—but TRUE BLUES cannot change."

The fever seized all classes of the community. The Roman Catholics of that day were subject to the pressure of unjust and unequal laws. Their hatred of French principles was, however, more intense than their hatred of oppression. The members of that Church in Birmingham published the following resolution :—

Birmingham, December 13th, 1792.—At a Meeting of the Catholics of this Town, held on Tuesday last,

It was unanimously resolved,

That this Meeting (impressed with the deepest Sense of Gratitude for the many Advantages they, in common, enjoy with their Fellow Citizens, under the present System of Government) cannot but shudder at the Attempt at any Subversion of it by foreign Emissaries, and disaffected Persons here; that they perfectly coincide with the loyal Sentiments and Declarations made by the Establishment and other Assemblies for that Purpose convened; that they are ever ready to shew their firm attachment thereto, and prove themselves Subjects worthy of the Confidence placed in them by so happy and mild a Legislature. WILLIAM HUGHES, Secretary.

This was followed by a meeting at which the Catholics and their Priests were thanked for their conduct :—

BIRMINGHAM ASSOCIATION.

Hotel, December 14, 1792.—At a Meeting of the Committee of the Association for the Protection of Property, and the Constitution of this Country, against Republicans and Levellers.

Ordered,

That the Letter from the Roman Catholics resident in this Town, to this Committee, be printed in both the Birmingham Papers, and that the thanks of the Committee be transmitted by the Chairman to Mr. Nutt and Mr. Millward, the Priests, and the rest of the Roman Catholics who signed the same. C. W. WILLIS, Esq., Chairman.

Birmingham, December 11, 1792.

Sir,—As necessary Duty on the 7th Instant, prevented several of us from being present at the numerous and respectable Meeting convened at the Hotel, We, the under written for ourselves and other Catholics of Birmingham, humbly beg leave to assure you, Sir, and through you the very respectable Committee, that the Call of the Assembly was most agreeable to us; your Resolutions we applaud; as loyal Subjects we most heartily concur in your Sentiments, with our most earnest wishes for the Welfare of our gracious Sovereign George the Third, and our happy Constitution under which we live, and wish to live; every System tending to withdraw the Subject from his Duty and Allegiance to his King and Constitution, by Law established, we abhor; all levelling Principles and Sentiments

subversive of Religion, Harmony, and good Order; we detest; Peace and good Neighbourhood we will promote, King and Constitution we will defend; and with the greatest Respect we subscribe ourselves,

(Here follow the signatures.)

An address was published to the Hundred :—

To the Inhabitants of the Hundred of Hemlingford.

We, whose Names are hereunto subscribed, being unanimously and decidedly of opinion that for the Security and Happiness of all Classes of our fellow Subjects, for the Maintenance of our own Rights and Liberties, and for the dearest Interests of our Posterity, it is in the present moment incumbent on us to give to the executive Government a vigorous and effectual Support, in counteracting the numerous Efforts of Sedition, in detecting and bringing to legal Punishment the Persons concerned therein, and in suppressing in their Beginning all Tumults or Riots, on whatever Pretence they may be excited—do hereby publicly declare our determination to take all such Steps for these Purposes as are within the limits of our Duty, in the several Stations in which the Constitution of our Country has placed us, and to afford by our individual Exertions, that active Assistance to the Authority of the lawful Magistrates, and to the Maintenance of the established Government, which is at all Times due from the Subjects of this Realm, but which we feel to be more peculiarly necessary under the Circumstances of the present Time.

For these Purposes, and to this Intent, we are resolved and do declare,—

1. That we will jointly and individually use our utmost Endeavours to discover and prosecute by due Course of Law, the Authors, Publishers, and Distributors of all seditious Writings which shall be published or distributed within our respective Neighbourhoods, and particularly all Persons who shall be engaged in any illegal Associations or Conspiracies for the Publication and Distribution of such Writings, or for the exciting of Tumult and Riot therein.

2. That in order to carry the above Resolution into the fullest Effect, we do hereby mutually bind ourselves, that whenever it shall come to our Knowledge that any Person or Persons have, within our respective Neighbourhoods, published or distributed seditious Writings, or engaged themselves in such Associations and Conspiracies for the Purposes aforesaid, we will use our utmost endeavours to put the Laws strictly in Force against him or them.

3. That we will, on every Occasion, exert ourselves on the first Appearance of Tumult or Disorder, to maintain the public Peace, and to Act in Support of the civil Authority for suppressing all Riots, and for bringing the Promoters of them to legal Punishment.

Those who agree in the Principles here stated are invited to set their Names to this Declaration, Copies of which will be left for that Purpose at the Swan, at Coleshill; at the Three Tuns, in Sutton Coldfield; at the Castle, at Tamworth; the Red Lion, at Atherstone; the George at Solyhull; and the Bull, at Nuneaton.

It is requested that any Information tending to carry into Effect the Purpose of the above Resolutions may be communicated to the acting Justices of the Peace for the Hundred of Hemlingford, or to the Earl of Aylesford, Sir Robert Lawley, Bart.; Richard Geast, Esq., Charles B. Adderley, Esq., Andrew Hacket, Esq., E. C. Hartopp,

Esq., Joseph Boultbee, Esq., E. Croxall, Esq., W. Dilke, Jun., Esq., John Hacket, Esq., Humphry Arden, Esq., Rowland Mainwaring, Esq., or W. Digby, Esq.

Coleshill, Dec. 7, 1792.

Aylesford.	E. Croxall, jun.
Robert Lawley.	Roland Mainwaring.
T. W. Knightley.	Humphry Arden.
William Little.	Joseph Boultbee.
Richard Geast.	C. B. Hartopp.
Andrew Hacket.	Wm. Dilke, jun.
John Hacket.	W. Digby.
Andrew Hacket, jun.	Edward Sadler.

The association began to work by seeking to make spies and informers. On the same day as the county address given above was published, an advertisement was inserted which "requested that all Persons who have any Knowledge of Seditious Publications being issued, or of Seditious Meetings, or of Persons guilty of uttering Seditious Expressions, will give immediate Information thereof to this Association, by Letter, addressed to Mr. Brooke, Attorney, Temple Row, the Secretary." This was signed by C. W. Willis, Esq., Chairman.

Another meeting was held on December 20, of which this report was published :—

December 24th, 1792.—The Committee of this Association cannot help expressing their Congratulation to the Town on the great Strength acquired by the Association in the daily Increase of its Members; and when the Books which are now in Circulation shall have been taken round to every House in the Town, they doubt not but it will be discovered that the number of Disloyal and Disaffected in this Place form a very small Proportion of the Inhabitants of Birmingham. The general Good likely to be produced by this Plan of the Committee has already alarmed the secret Advocates for Riot and Disorder, and has been the Occasion of the Publication of some very insidious and daring Hand Bills, with a View to intimidate and check the loyal and honest Manufacturers of Birmingham from putting their Signatures to the Books of this Association.

The Authors and Publishers of such Hand Bills certainly will not escape the proper Notice and Attention of the Committee in a legal Way; but lest the Unwary shall be caught by the specious and false Arguments made use of in them, the Committee think themselves called upon by the Interest of the Public to shew the Futility of such Arguments. The Public, in these Hand Bills, are told that the Friends of the Association are bound to support the present System of Government, corrupted by Innovation. From what Authority is such an Assertion made? And from what Publication of the Sentiments of the Association do the anonymous Writers hazard such a Proposition? That which the Association feel themselves bound to protect, and which they have pledged their Lives and Fortunes to maintain, is the Government which has been handed down to us by our Ancestors, namely, King, Lords, and Commons. Can any Man

(even if accustomed to draw the most wild and extravagant Inferences) say that this Support calls upon any Individual to refuse his Assistance in endeavouring, by every legal Method, to make every Branch of the Legislature as pure as it was in its Institution? Or can it be said that any Opinion has ever been offered by the Association, that any Corruption of Government in which Department it may exist, ought not to be corrected? On the contrary the Committee would feel themselves to be acting very inconsistently with the Opinions they entertain, did they not conceive that their Veneration and Respect for the present Form of Government would necessarily induce them to wish to see every Species of Corruption destroyed (if such Corruption does exist) whenever a proper Opportunity occurs.

The Friends to a Reform of Parliament cannot feel themselves either opposed or supported by the Principles of the Association, the Members of which disclaim any Consideration of that Subject. The Taxes payable to Government are also held out as a Species of Oppression under which the Inhabitants of this Country labour; and Taxes, in their Nature affecting every Individual, are brought forward as a Subject to produce Invective and Abuse of Government. The Fair and Candid will consider whether any Change in the Constitution will pay the Taxes already imposed, or make our Burthens less; and the Observation naturally occurs, that a Complaint against the Magnitude of the Taxes comes very ill at a Period when the National Debt is yearly paying off, and when, but for the internal Disturbances created by the Friends of Innovation and the Supporters of Disorder, some of these very Taxes were intended to have been abolished.

The Committee, trusting with the greatest Confidence in the Loyalty and good Sense of the Inhabitants of Birmingham, doubt not but that they will shew their Attachment to Loyalty and good Order by joining their Names to, and thereby supporting the Principles of, this Association.

The Protestant Dissenters, meaning by those words, the Unitarians of the town, held a meeting on the subject, and issued the following report, which gives us the political principles of men who had recently suffered so much from the bigotry and fanaticism of their fellow-townsmen.

At a numerous and respectable Meeting of Protestant Dissenters, held at the Charity School in Park-street, on Wednesday, Dec. 19, 1792;

William Russell, Esq., in the Chair:

An Invitation having been given to the Dissenters to attend the Meeting at the Hotel, on the 7th of this Instant, by some very respectable Members of the Establishment, a general Summons has been sent to the different Congregations in this Town, in consequence of which several numerous Meetings have been held (principally attended by Members of the two Societies belonging to the late Old and New Meetings) wherein the Peculiarity of their present Situation has been freely discussed, and the present Assembly, convened for the Purpose of settling the Business agitated in those which preceded it, conclude it incumbent upon them at this Crisis to declare their Political Principles, fully persuaded they entertain none which it is their Interest in any shape to dissemble or to conceal; they do therefore thus publicly express those Principles in the following Resolutions:—

Resolved unanimously; 1. That the Dissenters appeal to the uniform Tenor of their public Conduct as an unequivocal Testimony that they deserve well of the Nation in

general, and of the Family on the Throne in particular; this Character, which they apprehend they can justly lay claim to, they are determined to maintain.

Resolved unanimously; 2. That they are Friends to the Constitution of this Country, on the Principles asserted at the Revolution of 1688, as consisting of King, Lords, and Commons.

Resolved unanimously; 3. That, in consequence of the Abuses which have crept into our Constitution, they declare themselves warm and zealous Friends to such a Parliamentary Reform as shall make the Representation speak the Voice of the People, by rendering Elections more frequent, and the Representation more equal.

Resolved; 4. That they conceive, whatever Alarms and Discontents exist, the Adoption of such a Measure would be a sure Means of removing them.

Resolved; 5. That the Dissenters are Enemies to seditious and disorderly Practices, under whatever Pretence committed; are the firm Asserters of the Liberty of the Press, and shall ever regard it as the most invaluable of the Privileges of Englishmen, and the firmest Bulwark of their Rights.

Resolved unanimously; 6. That the Dissenters will chearfully concur in all constitutional Measures for encouraging Obedience to the Laws and assisting the Civil Magistrates on every Occasion, when such Assistance is rendered necessary by Overt Acts.

Resolved unanimously; 7. That the Right Honourable Charles James Fox is entitled to public Gratitude for the constitutional and manly Language so seasonably held forth by him in his two Speeches on the Address to the Throne, at the opening of the present Sessions of Parliament.

Resolved: That these Resolutions be printed in the London and Birmingham Papers.

Resolved unanimously: That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman for his able and impartial Conduct in the Chair.

WILLIAM RUSSELL, Chairman.

On December 24 was published :—

An Address to the Association for the Protection of Liberty and Property against Republicans and Levellers, held at the Hotel, Birmingham. By a Friend to Liberty and Property. Birmingham: printed and sold by T. Thompson. And in a few Days will be published, Will Deepsee's Observations on Constitutional Societies, addressed to the Association at the Hotel.

The Association, at a meeting held January 24, 1793, "recommended to the Innkeepers and Publicans in this Town and neighbourhood, to prevent, as far as lies in their Power, all Seditious Meetings in their Houses, and to give Information to the Secretary of this Association, of every Person who shall be heard to utter any Seditious Expressions."

Inspired by this resolution the innkeepers held a meeting, and resolved to more than comply with its recommendation :—

Birmingham, March 15, 1793.—At a very numerous and most respectable Meeting, held this day at the Hotel, agreeably to public Advertisement, of the Innkeepers and Victuallers of this Town and Neighbourhood; Mr. Thomas Dadley in the Chair; Resolved unanimously :—

That in order to shew our Loyalty to the King, and our Attachment to our present excellent Constitution, We will suffer no Person or Persons to hold any Society in our respective Houses, or make use of any Language that tends to subvert the Government of this Kingdom, without giving Notice to our worthy Magistrates of this Town.

That, happy under the present Government, We firmly engage to support the Royal House of Brunswick on the Throne of Great Britain.

That We will preserve the Peace, defend the Laws, and support the Magistrates in the Execution of their Office, in case of any Riot or seditious Tumult whatever.

That We will, to the utmost of our Power, suppress any inflammatory Writing that the factious Revolutionists may dare to issue, and use every Endeavour to bring the Authors to Justice.

That, for the more effectually preserving Order and Tranquility, We mutually agree to disclose and make known any treasonable or seditious Expressions which may come to our Knowledge, in order that the Guilty may receive due Punishment. And We earnestly request Men in all Ranks to unite with us, for the purpose of preserving our present inestimable Constitution, which has been the Glory of this Country, the Envy of other Nations, and is at this Time, under Providence, the Cause of our Happiness, Wealth, and Prosperity.

That it is the Duty of all good and loyal Subjects to preserve Fidelity to the King, and the sacred Constitution of this Country, as established by the glorious Revolution, and to maintain and support the Peace, Property, and personal Security of every good Subject under its Protection.

That we hereby declare our unfeigned Admiration of the Laws of this Country, fully convinced that none can be more wisely framed nor better calculated for the Protection of Liberty and Property, or for the impartial Administration of Justice.

That to support the Constitution and those public Men who make the Preservation of it their predominant principle of Action, is the Object to which the present Meeting will direct their Attention.

That to watch the insidious Designs of those lurking Enemies who, by every dark Manœuvre, are endeavouring to sap the Foundations of our glorious Constitution, and to expose them to the public Eye, is a Duty over which we will neither sleep nor slumber.

That the Thanks of this Nation are due to his Majesty's Ministers, for having advised, and in their respective Departments carried into Execution with Effect, the wise and firm Measures lately adopted.

That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Joseph Carles, Esq., and the Rev. Dr. Spencer, for their unwearied Exertions as Magistrates.

That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the High Bailiff, for convening the Inhabitants of this Town and Neighbourhood together on the 7th of December last, for the Purpose of declaring our Attachment to our present Government.

That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman, for his able Conduct in the Chair during this Business.

That the above Resolutions be printed in both the Birmingham Papers, in the Sun, the Star, and the General Evening Post.

THOMAS DADLEY, Chairman.

N.B.—The above Resolutions were signed by upwards of one Hundred and Twenty Inn-keepers and Victuallers, and will remain at the Hotel until Saturday, the 23rd instant.

for the Signature of such Inn-keepers and Victuallers who could not attend the Meeting and may wish to sign.

No wonder that we soon meet an advertisement like this :—

TWENTY GUINEAS REWARD.

September 30th, 1793.—Whereas some evil-minded malicious Person or Persons have written and sent by Post a letter to the Rev. Mr. Little, Minister of the Independent Society in Paradise Street, and signed "Rad. Scholefield, Exeter Row," containing Sentiments and Expressions of the most seditious and even treasonable Nature, I take this public Method of avowing my total Ignorance of such a Letter, and my utter Detestation of the Principles it contains; and with the firmest Assurance that every Friend to the Peace of the Town would rejoice in bringing such base, secret Incendiaries to Justice, I hereby offer a Reward of Twenty Guineas to any Person who will give me such Information as shall enable me to prosecute to Conviction the Offender or Offenders.

RADCLYFFE SCHOLEFIELD.

The Association was not provided with any business for more than two years. This was, doubtless, owing to their activity and strength, for there was plenty of sedition in the country. The London Corresponding Society were sending delegates about the country advocating the doctrines of the French Revolution, and teaching the people the principles of Paine's Rights of Man. It was not, however, until the year 1796 that we find a record of any of these emissaries visiting Birmingham. On Monday, March 14 of that year, we read :—

On Friday night last, Binns and Jones, two delegates from the London Corresponding Society, regardless of the laws and peace of the country, delivered (the one at the Swan, in Swallow Street, and the other at the Bell public house, in Suffolk Street, in this town) their inflammatory, Lectures; information of which being given to William Hicks, Esq., one of our Magistrates, he immediately repaired, with the peace Officers, to the illegal assemblings. The meeting at the Swan had broken up, but at the Bell they found Jones in a room haranguing about seventy people. As soon as he saw the Magistrate, he was silent; but Mr. Hicks, being made acquainted by several who were present of the seditious language he had held, immediately ordered the proclamation against disorderly meetings to be read, and the people in a few minutes dispersed. Jones was admonished by the Magistrate, who warned him to beware of his conduct in future, as a strict watch should be kept over him and all his associates.

A fortnight later this notice was published :—

March 28th, 1796.—Binns and Jones, the Delegates from the Corresponding Society, were again brought before our Magistrates on Thursday, and commitments were made out against them to take their trials at the next Assizes at Warwick. They found bail for their appearance; but Bathurst, the jobbing smith, has not been fortunate enough to procure any, and is still in confinement. The charges against them are for seditious and treasonable expressions, and for holding meetings to discuss political questions without giving the requisite public notice.

The next thing we hear of Binns is from an advertisement which appeared on August 7, 1797 :—

As there has been a Person taken up as a seditious Haranguer in London, on Monday last, of the Name of Binns, and as it is generally supposed it is the same Binns who has lately been at Birmingham, and who is to be tried for Sedition at Warwick; that there may not be any Aspersion at all upon the Character of that Gentleman, the Public may rest assured that he was at the House of Mr. Parr, the Cottage of Content, on Thursday Evening last, until a late hour, in Company with many respectable Gentlemen of this Town, whose Politics accord with his, and the Names of all which most worthy Gentlemen may be known on application to me.

B. Jeavons, White Horse, Friday Street.

This advertisement led to the publication of two others, which are curious illustrations of the time :—

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Birmingham.

August 14, 1797.—Fellow Townsmen,—An Advertisement which was inserted in Monday's Birmingham Paper, signed B. Jeavons, White Horse, Friday-street, being very generally misunderstood from the Ambiguity of the Language, and the Obscurity of the Individual whose Name it bears; we, the Company who supped at the Cottage, not wishing to conceal any Thing from you which happened on the Night of Thursday, August 3, and unwilling to suffer the proceedings of the night to be blackened by Malice, or misrepresented by Prejudice, trouble you with the following Statement, for the Truth of which we pledge ourselves.

On Thursday Evening, August 3, a Party of Friends went to sup at the Cottage of Content, near this Town. As the Persons who supped had most of them attended the County Meeting to Petition for Peace, they have since been denominated Jacobins. If a sincere Desire of giving Peace to the People of England, of giving Employment to the unemployed, and again bringing Wealth and Commerce to the Shores of Great Britain, be what constitutes the character of a Jacobin, we disclaim not the Epithet.

Before Supper we observed some Persons pass and repass the Window; among the Number was Lovelace Walsh, who gave Evidence against Mr. Jones, last Warwick Assizes. We supposed Curiosity to be their only Motive, but of this we have since had reason to doubt. About Ten o'Clock, one of our Company going to Walk in the Garden was surprised on opening the Door to find four Persons close to it and the Window of the Room in which we sat, apparently, nay, evidently, with the Intention to overhear what might fall from the Company within. The Man that can be capable of the Meanness of Listening, and of wishing, if possible, to seize upon the Moment of unguarded Conviviality to bring Injury upon others, is unworthy of the Character and beneath the Company of a Gentleman. Thus detected, those Persons walked into a Room and called for some Spirits and Water, which, having drank, they departed. We hoped they were gone for ever; but we were deceived—they only went to report Progress to a Company who were sitting at a Public House, in Birmingham. It was resolved by this Pot-valiant Company, that Jacobins had no Right to the Good Things of this World, and that they would go and rout them. Prudence, in despite of Good Ale, called aloud "Reinforce;" listening for once to salutary Advice, these Volunteer Heroes called at the House of Jeavons, where they were reinforced; thus strengthened,

strong in Numbers and undaunted in Courage, they determined to attack and turn out the Company at the Cottage. Prudence again whispered "take every Precaution," a Watch-word, Signal to Attack, &c., being agreed upon, and their Prudence thus quieted, they boldly marched forward—their zeal heated with Liquor, and confident in their Numbers—they entered the Cottage about Eleven o'Clock, when we had paid our Bill and were about departing; but unwilling to lead those Men into Error, and lest they should suppose we left the House on their Account, we determined to remain some Time longer. Upon questioning them as to their Motives for intruding thus insolently into a private Room and Company, various and contradictory were the Reasons assigned. But none more singular than that given by Jeavons, "I happened," said he, "to be passing, by Accident, and came in to take a Cup of Ale." A man that is guilty of telling a premeditated Falsehood is capable of every Thing mean and contemptible. Their Designs in coming were exposed almost immediately on their entering the Room; one of the Party said, I come as a Peacemaker. Where was the Necessity for such a Declaration if War had not been previously determined on? They demanded Liquor; the Landlord said he never drew any after Eleven o'clock, nor would he then for any Man. Perceiving that the Company was not intimidated or frightened at their Military Appearance, it allayed the raging Heat of their Zeal, cooled their Courage, awakened their Prudence, and wisely determined them to remain quiet. About Twelve o'clock we departed, and those who came to insult us remained. After singing a Song, d——ing the Landlord and abusing the Landlady, they returned to Birmingham, hooting, hissing and hallooing, "D——n all Jacobins." Their Conduct should have remained unnoticed, and treated with that contemptuous Silence which it deserves, had not some of the Party boasted of their Atrocity, and industriously, though secretly, insinuated that the Meeting was held for political Purposes, inimical to the Government.

We assure the Public that all such Reports are unfounded, and that the Meeting was a Friendly and not a Political one. If the whole Conversation had been spoken in the Presence of Spies, their Ingenuity and complying Consciences could not have tortured it into Criminality.

If Jeavons shall again lend his Name to an Advertisement which he is not to see till it is inserted, the Public will do him Justice to acquit him of being an Author, and excuse us from replying to any Thing which may appear under such Signature. As Jeavons has promised (or others have promised in his Name) that he will furnish any Person with a List of those who supped at the Cottage, we also promise any Person who will call at Mr. Parr's, Cottage of Content, our Names, and the Names of those Intruders who wished to shew their Loyalty, if it could have been done without the Possibility of personal Danger.

As there are many of the Persons who intruded on the Company at the Cottage that have since expressed their Sorrow for such Conduct, and declare they were prevailed on and in some measure forced by others, we promise to expunge their Names after making a proper Apology to any of the Company who were present.

Signed in Name, and by Order of the Company,

WM. HAROLD.

N.B. The Intruders were Twenty-six, the Company Fifteen, one of them having departed.

Birmingham, August 8, 1797.

To the Public.

August 14, 1797.—I am requested by the Party who attended me to the Cottage of Content, on Thursday Evening, the 3rd Instant, to state to the Public, we have no scruple in confessing we went there, though not secretly, to ascertain the Persons of a Set of known Birmingham Jacobins.

LOVELACE WALSH.

The history of this year was marked by several important events. Cash payments were restricted in consequence of the shortness of specie. There were mutinies in the fleets at Spithead and the Nore. Fox and his friends, unable to influence the conduct of the Government, ceased to attend the House of Commons. Meetings were held in various towns and cities, and addresses to the King adopted praying him to change his Ministers. A county meeting, called by the High Sheriff, was held at Warwick, on the last day of May, 1797, and a long petition was adopted. It set out by expressing sentiments of unfeigned reverence for the King, the Royal Family, and the institutions of the country. Then deprecated the origin, and complained of the conduct of the war, and said that the Ministers had "endeavoured to insure Impunity for their Mismanagement, and Perpetuity to their Power, by the Severities of unconstitutional Statutes, and by menacing Intimations of Coercion beyond the Laws." It next alludes to the fearful distress and poverty of the people—peasantry and artisans—the burdens of taxation, the failure of the war, the repressive measures of the Government, and concludes with this request :—

Most earnestly, then, we intreat your Majesty to dismiss without Delay those Ministers whose Profusion has impoverished your Subjects, whose Arrogance has disgusted your Allies, whose Incapacity has emboldened your Foes, and whose Misconduct in War is a glaring Proof of their Unfitness to procure Peace equitably, or to preserve it permanently, especially under the Pressure of Difficulties which their own inauspicious Measures have accumulated, far beyond any Example recorded in History of the most unsuccessful Administration in the most inglorious Reigns.

Warned by past Events, and dismayed at our future Prospects, we beseech you, Sire, to admit into your Councils other and better Men, whose Exertions may endear a Patriot King to a loyal People, by the Extinction of Venality, the Diffusion of Freedom, the gradual Reduction of Taxes, the speedy Revival of Commerce, the Restoration of public Credit, the Security of landed Property, and all the various Blessings which Wisdom in the Executive Government, seconded by the Integrity of an independent Parliament, may yet obtain for us, after Reconciliation with our Enemies, and by Union among ourselves.

Signed by Order of the Meeting,

ROBERT KNIGHT, Sheriff.

In a few days the address received nearly 4,500 signatures in this town. It was not, however, till 1801 that Pitt resigned, and the farce of the Addington Cabinet was played not quite to the edification of the nation. The repressive measures were continued; prosecutions for seditious speeches were numerous, and in 1798 "Gale Jones, a well-known and active agent of the Corresponding Society, was prosecuted to conviction for a seditious speech at Birmingham." In 1800 the following startling Government notice was published :—

PARDON AND ONE HUNDRED GUINEAS REWARD.

Whitehall, November 1st, 1800.—Whereas, a most Treasonable and Seditious Paper was, on Monday night, distributed in the Town of Birmingham, beginning with the words "*Vive la Republic*," and signed "T. W., Secretary," dated "Constitution Hall, October 27th, 1800;"

His Majesty, for the better apprehending and bringing to Justice the Persons concerned in writing and dispersing the said Paper, is hereby pleased to promise his most gracious Pardon to any one of them (except the Person who actually wrote the same) who shall discover his or their Accomplice or Accomplices therein, so that he, she, or they, may be apprehended and convicted thereof.

PORTLAND.

And, as a further Encouragement, a Reward of One Hundred Guineas is hereby offered by the Magistrates of the said Town to any Person making such Discovery as aforesaid (except as is before excepted) to be paid on the conviction of any one or more of the Offenders.

T. MILLWARD, Constable.

We do not find that these liberal rewards were ever claimed, or that the authors of this "most Treasonable and Seditious Paper" were ever discovered.

VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATIONS.

The year 1794 was distinguished by the commencement of the volunteer movement, in which the patriotism of the people, their loyalty to the king, their love for the constitution, and their hatred of the French, were displayed in an equal degree. The sacrifices which the nation made at this period have never been surpassed, and the following account of the part which Birmingham took in the defence of the country is a bright chapter in the history of the town. Early in the year a circular was issued from the Secretary of State's office, addressed to the Lord Lieutenants of counties, recommending the formation of volunteer companies in aid of the militia, and suggesting the expediency

of making pecuniary contributions in support of the scheme.* A county meeting, called by the Earl of Warwick, was held in the County Hall, on April 23, and the machinery was put in action to give effect to the king's proclamation. In a fortnight nearly £8,000 was subscribed. The feeling of the times may be seen in the following announcement :—

May 26, 1794.—The Gentlemen of this Committee resident in the Town and Neighbourhood of Birmingham think it right to intimate to those who have not yet subscribed, that, as no personal application will be made, it is hoped every one will voluntarily step forth and manifest to all the Kingdom that his Zeal in Defence of the invaluable Constitution of his Country is not confined to profession only.

In this earnest spirit the work was begun. The local writers of the time, including Morfitt, Weston, Job Nott, and, more important than all the others, the poet Freeth, gave their support to the project; and the people were ready and willing to join the regiments formed—especially as a tolerably good bounty was given. The following is a copy of one of the recruiting bills :—

June 2, 1794.—Warwickshire Regiment of Fencible Light Dragoons, commanded by the Earl of Warwick. All high-spirited Young Men, who are able and willing to serve their King and Country, in support of their most excellent and happy Constitution, the Envy of the World, have now a glorious opportunity of shewing their Zeal in the Warwickshire Regiment of Cavalry, to serve only during the present War, and within the Kingdom of Great Britain, to be commanded by the Right Hon. Earl Brooke and Warwick, and other officers of the County.

A Bounty of Five Pounds will be given to each young man who is approved of, and One Guinea to any Person bringing such Recruit.

They will be all mounted on fine Hunters, superior to most Regiments of Light Dragoons.

Let them repair to the Sergeant, at Mr. Owen's, the sign of the Eagle, in Hill Street: and at the Rose and Crown, in Moor Street, where they will enter into present Pay and Good Quarters. God save the King.

This town applied for permission to raise a regiment, and the application was graciously granted :—

Birmingham, June 9th, 1794.—In order publickly to make known the King's gracious compliance with the application from the Town in Favour of Lieutenant Colonel Roberts raising a Regiment; the following Copy of a Letter received from Lord Amherst is inserted. It is needless to doubt that Colonel Roberts's Friends who have already interested in his Behalf, will use all proper Means to facilitate the completion of the intended Regiment.

* A History of England during the Reign of George III. By W. Massey, M.P., v. 4, p. 76.

(Copy.)

St. James's Square, June 5, 1794.

Sir,—Having some Days since laid before the King the Application from the Town of Birmingham, signed by yourself and many others of the Gentlemen and principal Manufacturers of that Place, in favour of Lieutenant Colonel Roberts, and making an Offer to assist and support him in his Desire to raise a Regiment, I have the Honour to acquaint you, His Majesty was pleased to receive this Mark of the loyalty and zeal of the Town of Birmingham very graciously, and to order that the necessary Authorities should be given to Lieutenant Colonel Roberts to enable him to avail himself of this handsome Offer, by setting about to raise a Regiment in Birmingham accordingly.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant,

J. Carles, Esq., Birmingham. AMHERST.

In August we read :—

It is with great pleasure we announce that Colonel Hardy, so well known in this town and neighbourhood, has received his Majesty's Commission to form a Regiment of Riflemen, to be distinguished by the name of the *Royal York Fusileers*. The regiment is to consist of one thousand men, and the Colonel has already collected more than that number of the best marksmen, foresters, and gamekeepers, on the Continent.

The Free Masons acted with their usual loyalty; they held two meetings on the subject. At the first they resolved to form "one or more Companies" out of the society; and at the second, held on June 20, it was

Resolved unanimously:—That the Committee do immediately make an Offer to Government of the Services of this Association.

As there are many Free Masons, hearty well-wishers to the Success of this Undertaking who, from Age or other Infirmities, cannot attend in Person,

Resolved:—That a Subscription be opened, and the Money so raised applied to the Purposes of providing Arms and Accoutrements for those Brothers who may find it inconvenient to furnish themselves with the same.

The people of Harborne, Smethwick, Handsworth, and of all the places in the neighbourhood resolved to enrol themselves. The Odd Fellows also determined to "immediately form themselves into a military corps." On July 24 it was stated that "A very loyal armed Association, for the purpose of strengthening the hands of Government, for the security of property, and for the preservation of good order, is now forming in this town, and many hundreds have already been balloted into this respectable corps; which, we doubt not, will soon form as strong a regiment as any in the kingdom." Each member was to clothe and arm himself at his own expense, and to serve personally without pay. The King approved of the plan; and on Tuesday,

August 22, "the members of the Birmingham Loyal Association paraded at their Exercise Ground, in Coleshill-street, for the first time, in Full Uniform, and made a very splendid appearance. They patronize the play on Wednesday night, for the benefit of that most deserving favourite of the town, Miss Mansell."

The inhabitants were not content with forming a corps of infantry. It was resolved to have a cavalry regiment as well. A meeting was held early in September for this purpose :—

LOYAL BIRMINGHAM ASSOCIATED CAVALRY.

Shakespeare Tavern, September 2, 1797.—We, whose Names are hereunto subscribed, having, with the approbation of the Magistrates present (viz., W. Villers, and W. Hicks, Esquires), associated for the Purpose of forming ourselves into a Corps of Cavalry, under the above Denomination, for the Protection of this Town and Parish, and to act in Conjunction in aid of the Civil Power; request such other Gentlemen who may be disposed to join the Corps, to send in their Names to the Committee, at the Shakespeare Tavern, before Ten o'clock on Wednesday morning next.

JAMES REYNOLDS, High Bailiff.

Henry Clay,	Thomas Whately,	W. Cope,
John Startin,	Edward Bower,	Joseph Sheldon,
T. A. Pearson,	Wm. Sargant, jun.	James Woolley,
Thomas Barker,	Alex. Walker,	Joseph Randall,
Mich. Goodall,	Francis Walker,	Wm. Dunn,
Claude Johnson,	John Oughton,	Wm. Waddell,
Geo. Madeley,	Wm. Barrs, jun.	Jos. Cottrell,
Wm. Ketland,	John Phillips,	Isaac Marston,
Theodore Price,	John Cope,	Henry Osborne,
John Wilkes,	W. W. Mason,	John Harris.
W. Wynne Smith,	Thomas Rock,	

N.B. It is understood that each Gentleman, at his own expense, provides his Horse, Uniform, Accoutrements, &c.

Another corps was formed, which was called the Loyal Birmingham Light Horse Volunteers, and on October 7 the following appointments were made :—"Thomas Aris Pearson, to be Captain; Michael Goodall, Gent., to be Lieutenant; Theodore Price, Gent., to be Lieutenant; Alexander Walker, Jun., Gent., to be Lieutenant."

A meeting was held on November 10, at which it was resolved to present the two Loyal Associations with their Standards and Colours. Here is a report of the infantry :—

Nov. 13, 1797.—On Tuesday, the Loyal Birmingham Association of Infantry assembled at their Exercise Ground, near the Five Ways, for the purpose of being sworn; when an

Oath, similar to that taken by the Light Horse Volunteers, was administered to them by W. Villers, Esq.; after which they fired several vollies, and went through their manœuvres with great correctness.

A large concourse of people were assembled on this occasion; but the ground being kept clear by the great attention of a part of Lieut.-Colonel Legge's Troop of Warwickshire Yeomanry, none of the manœuvres were interrupted by the crowd. The Pick-pockets, however, were very successful, and a £17 bill was in one of the pocket books they carried off.

Next week we have a report of the first meeting of the cavalry :—

Nov. 20, 1797.—On Friday, the Loyal Birmingham Light Horse Volunteers mustered, for the first time, in complete uniform and accoutrements, at the King's Barracks, from whence they proceeded to the front of the Shakespear Tavern, when those gentlemen who had not been sworn had the oath administered to them by W. Villers, Esq.

The Troop afterwards dined at the above tavern, and were honoured with the company of the Officers of the Royals, Lieut.-Colonel Burnett, District Commandant; the Officers and Committee of the Loyal Birmingham Association of Infantry; the acting Magistrates for the Town; the High Bailiff, M. Boulton, Esq.; Henry Clay, Esq., and all the other Honorary Members. The day was spent with the utmost harmony and conviviality, and the following were among the toasts given :—

The King, and long life to him.—The Constitution, and may it live for ever.—The Queen and Family.—Field Marshall the Duke of York and the Army.—The Wooden Walls of old England.—General Goldsworthy and the Royals.—(By Major Cerjat of the Royals) The Loyal Birmingham Light Horse Volunteers.—Lieut.-Colonel Burnett, Commandant of this District.—The Lord-Lieutenant and Warwickshire Fencibles.—The Marquis of Hertford and Warwickshire Militia.—The Earl of Aylesford and Warwickshire Yeomanry.—Captain Timmins and the Loyal Birmingham Association.—The High Bailiff, and Prosperity to the Town of Birmingham.—The Acting Magistrates for the Town.—Admiral Lord Duncan and his surviving Heroes, and to the Memory of all those who have died nobly fighting in their Country's Cause.—The Ladies who worked the Standards and Colours of the Associations.—The Stewards of the Day (Messrs. Walker and Barker) and thanks to them for their attention, and for the enjoyment towards which they have so materially contributed.—(By the High Bailiff) Mr. Boulton and the Arts.—(By Mr. Boulton) May the approaching Birmingham Concert yield Comfort to the Widow and Orphan.—(By Colonel Burnett) May the rising Generation emulate the Spirit of the Constitutional Association.—Confusion to those who shall attempt to interrupt the Harmony that exists between the Loyal Associations of Cavalry and Infantry.—Colonel Kinsey, (on their retiring) Majors Cerjat and Wyndham, and may the Obligations the Troop is under to the Royals, be ever indelibly impressed upon the Minds of the Loyals.—&c. &c.

As the years passed on the fears of an invasion increased, and the people were still willing to contribute towards the volunteer fund. In 1798 more than two millions were thus subscribed. The Bank of England gave two hundred thousand pounds, and Mr. Peel, the father of the late Sir Robert, surprised the world by putting down his firm for

ten thousand pounds. Birmingham came out magnificently. The first announcement is as follows :—

March 12, 1798.—The Voluntary Contribution in this town amounts now nearly to £7,000, but the sum cannot be accurately stated, as the reports have not yet been all received from the different public rooms, where we learn subscriptions have been opened with great spirit and liberality; and we have no doubt a very considerable addition will be made to the sum in a few days, as the inhabitants will be waited upon at their own houses, where any gift, according to the ability of the donor, will, with pleasure, be received.

Whilst the zeal and alacrity manifested in every corner of the kingdom, and by every description of persons, in promoting the Voluntary Contributions, must be highly gratifying to every true lover of his country; it must surely tend to convince the enemies of our free and happy island, that should they dare to set foot on British ground, they will only arouse those energies invariably displayed, and which must terminate in the complete discomfiture of their rash and desperate enterprise.

A London newspaper circulated a report which received from Aris's the following well-merited rebuke :—

March 12, 1798.—A correspondent remarks, that he is sorry to see a paragraph in one of the London papers, stating, that the Dissenters in this town, had, at a vestry meeting, determined *not* to subscribe to the voluntary contribution, as the statement is known to be without the least foundation. Some of those gentlemen have already subscribed liberally, and others there are, who, no doubt, will follow their example. It is surely a most unwise and unpatriotic measure, to endeavour to divide Englishmen, at a time when union is so essential to the public safety.

The subscriptions flowed in. Some fifty gentlemen were found in this town who subscribed one hundred pounds each. School boys and girls added their mites to the common fund, and in a short time our contributions exceeded £10,000. The popular fervour was increased by selecting this time for the presentation of the colours. On May 21 the following announcement was made :—

PRESENTATION OF THE COLOURS TO THE LOYAL BIRMINGHAM ASSOCIATIONS OF CAVALRY AND INFANTRY.

The Committee have the Pleasure to inform the Public that the Colours are completed, and (if the weather permits) will be presented on Monday Morning, the Fourth of June next, being the Anniversary of His Majesty's Birthday.

The Committee have cleared a large Piece of Land on Birmingham Heath, near to Winson Green, for the Purpose; and, in order to accommodate such Ladies and Gentlemen who may wish to have a near and commodious View of the Presentation, have determined to fix Seats within the Line, which will be obligingly kept by Colonel Legge's Troop of Yeomanry Cavalry, and will be perfectly free from interruption by the surrounding Spectators, and yet placed in such a Manner as not to intercept their View, it being the Wish of the Committee to afford every possible Accommodation to the Public in general upon this interesting Occasion. If any Surplus remains after deducting the necessary Expenses, it will be applied to the Fund already formed by the Town.

Tickets, at 2s. 6d. each, may be had of Mr. Sanderson, at the Back of the Theatre, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Mornings next, between the Hours of Ten and One; and, as the Committee wish to ascertain, as early as possible, the Number of Seats which will be wanted, they request the Favour of those who intend to purchase Tickets to apply on one of those Days, as it will not be in their Power to engage to furnish Tickets after that Time, and no more will be issued than the Seats will commodiously contain.

P.S.—Should the weather be very unfavourable on the 4th of June, the Presentation will take place on the first fine Day afterwards, Notice of which will be given by a Flag hoisted upon St. Philip's Church, and the Ringing of Bells at Five o'clock in the Morning.

By Desire of the Committee,

GEORGE SMITH, High Bailiff.

Next week this paragraph was published :—

May 28, 1798.—It is now determined (whatever may be the state of the weather) that the Colours worked for the Loyal Corps of Cavalry and Infantry of this town shall certainly be presented on his Majesty's Birthday (Monday next), and every arrangement has been made to render the gala interesting and splendid. Exactly at ten o'clock in the morning the Royal Dragoons will head the Line in New Street, and lead the march to the Heath.

Medals were struck to commemorate the event. The fact is thus recorded :—

PRESENTATION OF THE COLOURS.

June 4, 1798.—To commemorate this Event, a Medal is struck from an approved Design (by Barber), and dedicated to the Inhabitants of the Town of Birmingham, and in a more especial manner to the Loyal Associations of Cavalry and Infantry.

By the Public's obedient Servant,

J. S. JORDEN.

As the Public at large may be accommodated, the Medals are of Silver, Bronze, and Copper, either adapted as Regalias, or for the Cabinet, and by Permission, the Beadles of St. Philip's will attend with them on the Parade, in New-street, to deliver them to the Gentlemen of the Corps; and in the Field to those Ladies and Gentlemen who may be desirous of possessing them. The Medals, in either Metal, may be had after this Day, at Messrs. Richards, High-street.

Mr. Jorden has had the Honour to receive an order for a Gold Medal for each of the Ladies who have worked the Colours, which are to be presented to them by the Town, and will be worn on the Occasion.

The long-expected day at length arrived, and the ceremony passed off with the greatest success. The following graphic report was published :—

June 11, 1798.—

PRESENTATION OF THE STANDARD OF THE LOYAL BIRMINGHAM LIGHT HORSE VOLUNTEERS, AND OF THE COLOURS OF THE BIRMINGHAM LOYAL ASSOCIATION OF CAVALRY AND INFANTRY.

Every preparation had been made by the High Bailiff and Committee to render the spectacle interesting; whilst at the same time all precaution was taken to avoid confusion and accident. The assiduity of the gentlemen who had devoted their attention to these objects was amply gratified by its success. Not an accident, if we except the concussion

of two horses in the performance of the sword exercise at speed (but without any permanent injury to the riders), occurred in a promiscuous assembly for nearly a whole day of upwards of fifty thousand people.

Early in the morning, Lieutenant Arden, with Colonel Legge's Troop of Warwickshire Yeomanry, and assisted by a detachment from the Earl of Aylesford's, obligingly repaired to Birmingham Heath to keep the ground cleared there for the occasion, and which, for the accommodation of the company, had been partly surrounded with seats, booths, &c. The Ladies who worked the Standard and Colours, (viz., Mrs. Pope and Mrs. Eves, of the Crescent, and Mrs. Wyatt, of Birmingham Heath,) and the Ladies who assisted in presenting them, breakfasted with the Gentlemen of the Town Committee, at the Shakespear Tavern, in New-street, and at ten o'clock, in front of the tavern and along the street, the line was formed in the following order, for the purposes of proceeding and escorting the Ladies and Committee to the Heath :

Lieut.-Colonel Kinsey, with the Troop of the Royal Regiment of Dragoons.

The Loyal Birmingham Light Horse Volunteers.

The Birmingham Loyal Association. Lieutenant-Colonel Burnett, Commandant of the Recruiting District, with the whole of the Recruiting Officers and Parties in the Town.

In this order the procession marched to the ground, the carriages containing the Ladies, Committee, and Colours, having fallen into the line between the Cavalry and Infantry. Upon arriving on the Heath, the Ladies having been some time seated in the places prepared for them, the ceremony of presenting the Colours took place. The High Bailiff, the two Magistrates, with the Ladies who worked the Standard and Colours, accompanied by Mrs. Kinsey, Mrs. Taylor, and Mrs. Villers, and the whole of the Committee, advanced to the centre of the ground, between the military and the company, being attended on either side by the young Ladies of Mrs. Wyatt's, Mrs. Eves's, and Mrs. Pope's schools, uniformly and elegantly dress'd, and who, during the ceremony, formed a beautiful circle. The Standard and Colours being then given by the Ladies, &c., into the hands of the Captain of the Light Horse, and the two senior Captains (Capts. Timmins and Lycett) of the Infantry, the High Bailiff addressed to the Officers the following admirable speech :—

Gentlemen,—Upon an occasion so important and so interesting as the present, it is impossible for me to enter upon the duty assigned me by the ladies and gentlemen with whom I have the honour to be associated, with any common emotion of mind. I must, therefore, throw myself upon your candour and indulgence, and have only to solicit that, however imperfectly I may discharge the trust committed to me, it may not, in the smallest degree, be considered as diminishing from those sentiments of high esteem and regard which it is the wish of the town on this occasion to convey.

Gentlemen,—These colours are presented to you by the Town of Birmingham as a public and solemn pledge of its approbation and respect for the manly and patriotic manner in which you have stepped forward to enrol yourselves at this critical and important juncture, for the Preservation of the Peace and Property of the Town and Neighbourhood, and in defence of our beloved Monarch and the happy Constitution of this country.

In the name of the town, therefore, Gentlemen, we beg you to accept them, and feel the firmest conviction that by you they will be guarded with a Soldier's care, and will be considered as a lasting and honourable testimony of public Gratitude and Regard.

Gentlemen,—No day could have been more auspicious for this Solemnity than the one which gave birth to a Monarch who is emphatically the Father of his People, and whose memory will ever be dear to Britons while Religion, Morality, and genuine Patriotism hold a place in their affections.

Gentlemen,—It is in the Defence of this King, and the Constitution of which he is the Guardian, that you have nobly enrolled yourselves, a Constitution which endears itself by protecting alike the inhabitants of the splendid mansion and the peaceful dwelling of the humblest cottager—a Constitution which, at this eventful and momentous crisis, has hitherto proved its superior excellency by having withstood the rude attacks of dessolating anarchy, and which, I trust, has taken deeper root than ever in the Hearts of Englishmen, and which, I am persuaded, they will never, never consent to barter for the visionary phantoms of modern Illuminati.

Gentlemen,—I should consider myself highly negligent, were I to omit calling to your recollection the very handsome manner in which the Ladies who have done us the honour to work the Colours had anticipated the wishes of the town, and the no less polite way in which they consented to forego their own inclinations, and to resign their claims, from a conviction that the present would be attended with a higher sanction from the town than from any private individuals, however respectable. They are certainly entitled to our best thanks, which I beg leave thus publicly to offer them. On the exquisite manner in which the Colours are worked, it is needless for me to remark; your own taste has already appreciated their merits, and I am persuaded no encomiums of mine could add to the high sense you entertain of their superior excellence.

Gentlemen,—I shall detain you but a moment longer, while I observe that where'er that Banner and those Colours fly, there will the best wishes of your fair Countrywomen, your Townsmen, and your Neighbours attend you. Should a momentary delusion at any future period interrupt our domestic tranquility, to your well-regulated hands we shall look with confidence for the restoration of peace and good order; and should ever the rash enterprize of a ruthless and vindictive foe call you to more hazardous service, I trust we shall offer up our fervent prayers to the Almighty, that he would shield your heads in the day of battle, preserve you in every time of danger, and give you, when peace shall return to bless the world, one and all to share its richest comforts, and to the latest period of your lives may you enjoy the heartfelt satisfaction of having contributed to your country's welfare, and of having stood in the foremost ranks of those to whom, under God, we are indebted for the preservation of that grand Bulwark of genuine Liberty and solid Happiness—The British Constitution—a Constitution which, I cannot forbear to repeat, I trust the plain and good sense of Englishmen will never be induced to barter for the visionary phantoms of Modern Illuminati.

When the High Bailiff had concluded, the Rev. Mr. Curtis, Rector of the Town, read an excellent Address, and consecrated the Standard and Colours. As we understand the Rector means to compliment each Member of the Association with a copy of this Address, it will suffice for us to remark, that after lamenting the necessity of man's resort to arms, and the interruption of harmony between nations, he spoke of the beneficial effects which must naturally arise from the timely interference of good citizens in support of their laws and liberties. The main object of such Associations was not to disturb but to preserve peace; and, therefore, he was not aware that, in commending Associations so conducive to public tranquility, he was departing from the character of a Minister of the Gospel of Peace. Mr. C. then consecrated the Standards in the following terms:—

"Under the impression, then, of the utility and importance of such Associations to the peace of society, I am persuaded the feelings of this numerous and respectable assembly will go with me, when I Dedicate these Standards, as far as the nature of my office will allow, to the honour of God, the maintenance of our Religion, and the preservation of the order and welfare of society.

"I now consign them to the hands of those, who, in a moment when their services are most wanted, have united themselves for the professed purpose of supporting, with unshaken zeal, the social, moral, and religious rights of their fellow citizens and themselves; and in full confidence that their conduct will correspond with a plan so judiciously formed, and with intentions so laudably professed, I do not hesitate, as a Minister of the Gospel of Peace, to pray that the especial protection of Providence may light on the Loyal Associated Corps here present. May the God of Battles, who is alike powerful "by many and by few," to save and destroy, watch over and preserve them; and if it be His good pleasure to visit them with a day of peril, may He inspire their hearts with wisdom in council, and courage on the field. May "the Lord of Hosts be with them, and the God of Jacob be their Refuge."—Amen. After the consecration, the Captains delivered the standard and colours (with suitable addresses) to the Cornets and Ensigns. Colonel Kinsey then reviewed the troops, who went through their various manœuvres and evolutions, and a party of the Royals gratified the spectators with the Austrian Sword Exercise, and the Attack and Defence at full speed. Three volleys (accompanied with cheers of three times three, &c) were fired by the whole line, in honour of his Majesty, and three more in compliment to the Colours, after which the procession returned to New Street, in the same order in which it came, with the addition of the Gentlemen of the Yeomanry bringing up the rear of the line.

The day proved remarkably fine. Such a concourse of people (computed at between fifty and sixty thousand) had perhaps never before assembled in this neighbourhood; and their peaceful, respectful, loyal, and exemplary conduct, afforded to every good subject the most heartfelt satisfaction. At a time when the most industrious and profligate attempts are made to corrupt the morals of our countrymen, to estrange them from their duty towards their God, and their allegiance towards their Sovereign, we mention with pride an instance so honourable to the character of our townsmen and neighbours. We have already had the satisfaction to state, that not one accident happened amidst the multitude of spectators to interrupt the pleasure of the day.

As there was no room by any means large enough to accommodate the two Corps and the Yeomanry, they dined at separate Taverns, and were honoured with the Company of the Officers of the Regulars. The afternoon was spent by the whole town with the greatet festivity, and the evening concluded with the utmost harmony. Three guineas per troop were sent by the Committee to the privates of the Royals to drink their King's health, and in the proportion of numbers a like complement was made to the recruiting parties.

Of the Standard and Colours, which are all worked from Mr. Barber's designs, it is impossible for us to speak in just and appropriate terms:—They are objects of universal admiration, and evince the exquisite taste and talents of the Ladies who have wrought them.

A medal, also designed by Mr. Barber, and executed by Mr. Jorden, was worn by the Ladies, Committee, &c.

The parade and manœuvres of the day were settled by Colonels Kinsey and Burnett, and the Committee and the Corps feel and acknowledge the great and obliging attention of these officers upon this, as well as upon many other occasions.

We should be very deficient if, in concluding this account, we omitted to observe, that the ground was kept with so much judgment and temper by Lieutenant Arden, with the Yeomanry, that notwithstanding the immense numbers that surrounded them, it was never broken into, and all the spectators departed in perfect good humour.

A CAUSE CÉLÈBRE.

Towards the end of the year 1791 Birmingham witnessed the beginning of a *cause célèbre*, which is quite a criminal romance. A man named Hubbard, with the aliases of Griffin, Lord Massey, and the Duke of Ormond, had committed forgery for a very large amount, and succeeded for some time in escaping from the hands of justice. He was, however, apprehended at Vauxhall in this town, and ultimately paid the penalty of his crime on the scaffold—one more of those victims to the cruel penal laws of the time, who even then began to excite the sympathy of the public, and to make juries palter with their consciences rather than return verdicts of guilty against prisoners whose punishments would be so disproportionate to their crimes. The first notice we have of Hubbard is the following advertisement:—

IMPOSTOR.

October 24th, 1791.—Whereas a Person, calling himself the Duke of Ormond, did, on Friday the 7th of this instant October, fraudulently obtain from Messrs. Eaton and Hammond, Bankers at Newmarket, the Sum of 200*l.*, by getting them to give him their Bills and Cash for a Draft dated the 27th of September, drawn by one Spencer Purvis of Doncaster, upon Messrs. Gosling and Co., Bankers, in Fleet Street, London, payable 3 Days after date to the Duke of Ormond, or order; at the same time informing them he was the Duke of Ormond, when in fact, that Title has been extinct many years. He is supposed to come from Birmingham or Doncaster, and has gone by the Name of Griffis or Griffin, and is well known at Stilton and Stamford.

He appears to be about 25 Years of Age, about 5 Feet 10 Inches high, and Weight about 14 Stone, fair Complexion, dark Hair and Eye Brows, with his Hair queu'd and fore Top frizzed back, Sides straight, dressed in a dark Snuff-coloured great Coat, with high black Collar, and under that had on a new blue straight Coat, with fashionable yellow Haycock Buttons, and Six on each Coat Sleeve, white outside corded Dimity Waistcoat, Buttons of the Colour and set wide, a Blue Silk under Waistcoat, Thick-set Breeches, blue ribbed Stockings, Boots almost new, and a round Hat; has a very small Dimple or Scar on the Bottom of his left Cheek, or rather on the Jaw Bone, appears to be done by Gunpowder, but so small as not to be observed without near Inspection; was pursued on

the North Road as far as Newark. Whoever will apprehend the above Person shall receive Forty Pounds Reward, to be paid by Mr. Ellison, No. 4, Crane Court, Fleet Street, London, Secretary and Solicitor to the Association of Country Bankers.

On November 7 we have the report of his arrest :—

On Wednesday last, a young man of very genteel appearance was apprehended at Vauxhall, near this Town, and is supposed to be the person who called himself the Duke of Ormond (an Irish title forfeited in the year 1715), and who, under that title, fraudulently obtained, on the 7th of October last, of Mr. Hammond, a banker of Newmarket, the sum of two hundred pounds, for a swindling bill to that amount, purporting to be drawn by Spencer Purvis, of Doncaster, on Messrs. Gosling and Co., bankers, in London, and payable to his *Grace's* orders.

This young man (whose name appears to be Griffin) arrived late on Sunday night, the 30th ult., at the Hotel, in this Town, accompanied by a handsome young woman, and attended by a servant. The next day he removed to Vauxhall, styling himself Captain Mouson, of the Dragoons. The young woman, he said, was his sister, and she had a separate apartment. On Wednesday, however, Mr. Spooner, master of the Blue Bell Inn, in Leicester, accompanied by two friends, arrived in this town in pursuit of a *runaway* daughter. Griffin, it seems (if he is the pretended duke) had, since his transaction with the Newmarket Banker, chiefly resided at this Inn, in Leicester, where his address and the graces of his person had gained so much upon the young woman's affections, that he found it no difficult matter to carry her off. The father, upon his arrival, soon discovered where the fugitives were; he immediately went to Vauxhall and demanded his daughter. Griffin refused to surrender her, and said he would with his life defend the possession of her. Upon this the father returned to Birmingham, and as his daughter was under age, begged the assistance of Mr. Wallis, the Constable, to restore her to him; it was at the same time hinted by one of the persons who accompanied Mr. Spooner from Leicester, that Griffin was most probably the Newmarket Impostor. Accordingly Mr. Wallis, with his eldest son and Bruce, the thief-taker, attended the father on his return to Vauxhall. When they arrived there Griffin was sitting alone in the parlour; he had two brace of loaded pistols on the table, and a brace in his pockets. Mr. Wallis, jun., being the first that entered the room, Griffin pointed a pistol at him; Mr. W. had only time to say, "What, Griffin, is it you—you wont surely shoot me," when the pistol was discharged; the aim was, unfortunately, so well directed, that the ball struck Mr. Wallis's front teeth in an oblique direction, broke six of them, most terribly tore his tongue, and took off a piece of his upper lip. Mr. Wallis, sen., and Bruce now rushed into the room; to the breast of the former Griffin presented another pistol, which happily flashed in the pan, and as he was going to point a third, Bruce, with a violent blow of his bludgeon on Griffin's head, brought him to the ground, and after he had much beaten him, he secured him.

With the first blood that issued from his mouth, Mr. Wallis spit out the ball (quite flattened) that had struck him; when Griffin said he was sorry he was so agitated as to fire at Mr. W., but if he had been a Bow-street Runner, he should not have lamented shooting him.

Griffin was conveyed from Vauxhall to our Dungeon. It was at first thought his skull was fractured by the blow he received on his head, and that he was in danger from his other bruises. The Surgeons, however, who attend him have since declared the

contrary. On Thursday he was taken before the Magistrates, at the Public Office. From the loss of blood, and the pain of his wounds, he had nearly fainted from the fatigue of ascending the stairs when he was brought to the bar; he, however, soon recovered himself, and politely addressing the Magistrates, expressed a hope that they would not consider him as wanting a proper respect for them, or as contemptuous, if he declined answering any other questions that were put him but such as related to the circumstance of his capture. He requested the favour of having some of his cloaths, which was granted; and evidence having been taken of his shooting Mr. Wallis, he was ordered back to the dungeon for future examination.

Curiosity has drawn numbers of gentlemen to visit the prisoner. He is a most handsome athletic young man, about six and twenty years of age, is said to speak two or three foreign languages, and by his conversation he appears to be a man of ability; his whole demeanour is, indeed, so very prepossessing and genteel, that many feel themselves interested in his fate. It has been reported he was born at Hagley; but he denies having any knowledge of the place; and we are told that the native of Hagley, for whom by many he was taken, is now a patient at our Hospital. It is, however, certain that he has frequently been in this town. In August, 1790, he was at the Red Lion, in company with a person who went by the name of Norman; and it is remembered, that on the 22nd of last July, he came in the coach to the Union Tavern, with another man and two genteel youths; the boys were sent away in chaises, but he and the other man continued at the Tavern for five days, when they suddenly left it, *forgetting* to pay the landlord's bill, and also a neighbouring taylor's, whom they had obliged with their orders. A similar act of *forgetfulness* is also charged upon Griffin by the landlord of the Swan Inn, at Lichfield, who has a bill against him for expenses during the races at that place; but whether or not he be the person who assumed the title of the Duke of Ormond, cannot, perhaps, be positively known until Mr. Hammond or his clerk shall see him; he certainly nearly answers the description given of the man, and among his cloaths was found a blue great coat, with haycock buttons, similar to the one described in Mr. Hammond's advertisement in this paper of the 24th ult.

As soon as Griffin was secured, Mr. Spooner took his daughter back to Leicester.

We are happy to inform our readers that Mr. Wallis, jun., though he is so severely wounded, is likely to do well. This Gentleman had but just arrived from London, when he set out with his father upon this unfortunate business. On one part of the ball with which he was shot is indented a perfect impression of one of his corner teeth.

In the week following we have the report of his identification :—

Birmingham, November 14th, 1791.—On Friday morning last, Mr. Hammond, the Banker from Newmarket, attended by the Magistrates, went to our prison. He immediately recognized the person who now calls himself Henry Griffin (but who is also known by the name of George Hubbard, which is thought to be his real one), as the man who assumed the title of the Duke of Ormond, and charged him with uttering the swindling bill for 200*l.* The prisoner said nothing in his own defence; and yesterday he was sworn to by Mr. Green, Jeweller, of London, as being the person who, in March last, defrauded him and his partner, Mr. Willerton, of jewels to the amount of £760, which he ordered at their shop in Bond Street, pretending to be Lord Massey, and giving them a draft purporting to be drawn by Earl Tankerville, on Messrs. Coutts, of the Strand, for 1,449*l.* The jewels were delivered at his lodgings, and so satisfied were Messrs. Willerton

and Green that he was the person he called himself, that he made out a draft upon their Banker for the difference of the bill he had left with them. This draft, however, he never called for, having hastily quitted his lodgings the moment he had possession of the jewels. He is at present detained here on account of the assault upon Mr. Wallis, that gentleman being, we are sorry to say, as yet too ill to undergo an examination.

On the 21st we read :—

The person committed to our prison by the name of Henry Griffin still remains there, Mr. Wallis having been as yet incapable of undergoing an examination. Jealous, one of Sir Sampson Wright's men, has been here to see him. He says the prisoner's real name is James Hubbard, that he is a native of, and has been an officer in, America, and that, in the year 1790, he was convicted of an offence in Ireland, for which he was ordered to be transported, but that he then found means of escaping from his gaolers. He also declares him to be the person who, some time since, was guilty of the imposition upon the Duke of York, which His Highness forgave; and that he once assumed the character of the Duke of Manchester, with the view of taking in a watchmaker.

We have next a brief account of his committal to Warwick :—

December 5, 1791.—On Tuesday last, the *soi disant* Duke of Ormond was committed by our Magistrates to Warwick gaol, under the name of Henry Griffin, for feloniously shooting at, and dangerously wounding, Mr. John Wallis the younger, as mentioned in former papers. The elder Mr. Wallis was bound over to prosecute at the next Warwick assizes. Mr. Wallis, jun., could not attend at the Public Office, and, therefore, a certificate being signed by the Physician and Surgeons who have attended him since his confinement, stating that his removal might endanger his life, the Magistrates politely took his deposition at his apartments. Detainers are also lodged against the prisoner for frauds committed on Mr. Hammond, the Newmarket Banker, and Messrs. Green and Co., Jewellers, in New Bond Street, London. He was conveyed to Warwick in a post-coach and four, accompanied by Mr. Fearn, Mr. Sanders, and four other Constables, especially sworn for the due execution of the warrant.

On the same day the readers of the *Gazette* were furnished with a rather full history of this "interesting" criminal :—

DUKE OF ORMOND.

December 5th, 1791.—As many erroneous conjectures have appeared in the public prints respecting the real name and family of the unfortunate young man now confined in Warwick gaol, by the name of Henry Griffin, charged with defrauding the banker at Newmarket in the name of the Duke of Ormond, we are now enabled to lay before our readers the following particulars, which may be depended upon as authentic :—

His real name is James Molesworth Hubard, son of James Hubard, Esq., late his Majesty's Judge Advocate to the province of Virginia, and he was born in North America. The virtues of the father were a sufficient recommendation to Lord Dunmore, who immediately took the son under his protection, and placed him in the rank of an officer in one of the regiments of Loyalists, in which he was distinguished soon for his personal and mental accomplishments, having added to a genteel and handsome person a very liberal education.

In the above regiment he was also distinguished for his personal courage, and was looked upon as a very promising officer. With this character he marched with the corps into winter quarters at New York, where dissipation and extravagance were at their height. Naturally of a gay disposition, caressed by his superior officers, and his vanity flattered by the attention of the first and finest women in the place, it is not to be wondered at that he launched inconsiderately into the follies and vices of the town. His income not being equal to his extravagant way of living, he absconded with some money belonging to the army. He was then forced to sell his commission.

When he came to this country, the money he obtained by the sale of his commission was soon expended, and having run considerably into debt, he was arrested and thrown into the King's Bench prison, from which he was liberated by a certain *Lady of high rank.*

The above connection lasted but a short time; he was again distressed, and again set his invention to raise his finances. To this end he wrote to Lord Howard, under the feigned signature of an officer who was well known to his Lordship, and who at that time stood in need of pecuniary aid, by which means he obtained a sum of money. He was indicted for this offence; but, by an oversight in the Solicitor for the prosecution, he was acquitted. After this he practised the same fraud on various gentlemen, till at length he was detected in writing in the name of an officer in the Coldstream regiment to the Duke of York, and obtaining from his Royal Highness twelve guineas. For this offence he was tried and convicted; but, at the instance of the Duke, his sentence was a very mild one.

After this, the first accounts we have of him are from Ireland, where he was tried by the name of Redman for shop-lifting, and was sentenced to be transported for seven years; but he escaped from the prison, by lowering himself from the top by ropes, in which, it is reported, he was assisted by the keeper's daughter.

He then went to France, where he again got connected with a woman of rank, from whom he obtained upwards of £1,500, and here he kept his carriage, and was afterwards concerned with a famous English gambler, who has found it convenient to reside in that country for some time back. They kept a Faro Bank, but quarrelling about the profits, separated. He again came to England, and, by a detainer lodged against him at Birmingham, he appears to be the person who, under the borrowed title of Lord Massey, defrauded Messrs. Willerton and Green of jewels and trinkets to the amount of £700. After this, he passed upon a watchmaker in Holborn as the Duke of Manchester, and ordered two watches to be sent to his lodgings in Charles-street, St. James's Square; but as the watchmaker was informed that his Grace was abroad, instead of watches, he sent him two officers from Bow Street. Hubard being at that time near his own lodgings, and seeing the officers, whom he well knew, decamped. The story of the Duke of Ormond is fresh in the minds of the public, we need not therefore repeat it.

After this, he went to York races, where he met Shaw, who is admitted an evidence against the mail robbers, and was by him advised to reform his life, as he had got off so well from Newmarket. He assured Shaw he would, but that there was a girl at Leicester whom he tenderly loved, and that he would obtain her at any rate. The sequel is well known; he was taken in running away with her.

He has for some time kept a servant in livery, has a horse at this time for which he has been offered a hundred and fifty guineas. The elegance of his address gained him admission to the tables of the first gentlemen in the counties through which he has travelled; and he boasts of having evaded the search made after him at the same

time that he walked publicly about London, disguised only by wearing spectacles, a cocked hat and cockade.

At Leicester, in the house from whence he took the daughter of the landlord, he gave several public entertainments, at which the most respectable persons of the neighbourhood were present.

Were his whole history laid before the public, it would, perhaps, exhibit a combination of the most extraordinary incidents that ever concentred in any man of his age, which apparently is not more than five or six and twenty. He has a mother, two sisters, and a brother, now living at Williamsburgh, in Virginia, with whom he has never corresponded since he lost the favour of Lord Dunmore. His mother is a native of America; her maiden name was Morton; she retains very large possessions in the province of Virginia.

The committal gave rise to a bit of local literature, with the following curious title :—

Dec. 5, 1791.—This day is Published, price Four-pence,—A SQUINT at ELYSIUM; or, DUKE and NO DUKE: a Poem, occasioned by the Commitment of Henry Griffin to Warwick. By a Lady of Birmingham.

At the Warwick Spring Assizes, in March, 1792, the commission was opened by Mr. Baron Thompson on the 27th. On the following day his Lordship proceeded to try the causes at the Nisi Prius Bar; and "whilst the Judge was at this bar, Griffin (the Duke of Ormond), elegantly dressed, was put up; but on an affidavit of young Mr. Wallis's Surgeon being read, stating that that gentleman was as yet incapable of attending, he was remanded to take his trial at the next assizes." Thus the matter stood over until the Summer. The trial at Warwick took place on August 21, and the following brief report of it appeared in the *Gazette* of the 27th :—

On Tuesday morning, a little before eight o'clock, the Court being extremely crowded, Griffin, alias Hubbard, the pretended Duke of Ormond, appeared at the bar to take his trial for shooting at Mr. Wallis, jun. His deportment was exceedingly genteel, and the whole Court seemed to lament that his imprudencies should have hurried him into so perilous a predicament. The first jury was totally objected to by his Counsel; the second being sworn, the trial commenced, and about 12 o'clock he was pronounced NOT GUILTY.

In his defence he spoke with great ability and feeling. He adverted to the wanton and malicious calumnies which were circulated against him in the public papers, to his prolonged imprisonment, and the treatment which he met with when he was apprehended. He hoped his Lordship and the Jury would not consider the act of firing as an act of premeditated murder, or the act of a bad heart, but rather as the act of a moment, produced by the critical and peculiar situation in which he stood—an act, perhaps, of intemperance, but committed under the imprest idea of sheltering, from an exasperated father and a malicious lover (his envious and enraged rival), a beloved woman, one of the most amiable of her sex, who had claimed his protection, and whom (dearer to him than life) he had promised, at the hazard of his life, to protect.

The young lady was with her father in Court during the trial, and seemed much interested in its issue. Judge Ashurst stated the law to be as follows; and it determined the case: "That, if an officer be killed in endeavouring forcibly to enter an apartment to secure an offender, it cannot be deemed Murder, except the officer shall have acquainted the offender by what authority and for what offence he is about to secure him."

Griffin had still lodged against him two detainers; one on the charge of Mr. Hammond, banker, of Newmarket, and the other on that of Mr. Green, jeweller, London; and a *Habeus Corpus*, to remove him to the gaol of Suffolk, has been made out in consequence of the first above-mentioned charge.

We hear nothing more of the case until December 17, when this paragraph was published :—

On Tuesday (Dec. 11) G. Hubbard, alias H. Griffin, the *soi-disant* Duke of Ormond and Lord Massey, who was lately tried at Warwick, for shooting Mr. Wallis, was capitally convicted at the Old Bailey for forging and publishing a Bill, purporting to be drawn by Earl Tankerville, for £1,449, and thereby obtaining from Messrs. Green and Willerton, under the assumed title of Lord Massey, jewels and cash for the same. He did not bear his conviction with that fortitude which he before appeared to possess.

The aristocratic swindler was now rapidly approaching his end. On February 8, 1793, the Recorder of London, "made his report of criminals in Newgate to his Majesty, when Griffin (the Duke of Ormond) and nine others were ordered for execution." On February 14, the following curious and illustrative anecdote appeared :—

Griffin, the late Duke of Ormond, lately sent for a taylor who lives opposite to Newgate, to measure him for a suit of mourning. The taylor, thinking his customer's *tricks* at an end, immediately made the cloaths, and carried them to the cells, where Griffin very deliberately put them on, declaring he was never better fitted, and paid many compliments on the neatness of the cut, &c. The taylor, perceiving no overtures of payment, reminded his employer of his charge. Griffin, turning round, replied, "true, Mr. Taylor, your charge is moderate, and I will put you in a way of being paid. I know (continued the malefactor) that you let out your house at sixpence a head at every hanging-bout; now, as I am shortly to be hanged, and you know, Mr. Taylor, I am no common rascal, I would advise you to raise your price to half-a-crown. If that wont do, why you may have your cloaths again, but I am determined first to be hanged in them."

On the same day appeared this very brief report of a very ghastly spectacle :—

February 14, 1793.—Yesterday morning, soon after eight o'clock, Francis Hubbard, alias Griffin, alias Lord Massey and Duke of Ormond, for forgery, and seven other malefactors, were executed opposite the Debtor's door of Newgate. Hubbard stabbed himself in the side on Tuesday morning, and is also said to have taken some poison, neither of which, however, proved effectual; he appeared very weak from loss of blood, but behaved with great fortitude and composure previous to his being executed.

And so terminated the life of the hero of this curious *Cause Célèbre*.

CHAPTER II.—1801–1811.

§ 1. APPEARANCE OF THE TOWN.

GREAT and important changes were made in the appearance of the town during this decade. The principal were the removal of the houses which surrounded St. Martin's Church, and the enlarging of the churchyard. To appreciate the difference thus made we have only to compare the present aspect of the Bull-Ring and the church with that which we see in the old maps. Land for building on was announced to be sold or let in all parts of the town, and although these ten years were far from being prosperous, and were chiefly distinguished by a brief peace, succeeded by a renewal of the bloodiest and most expensive war on record, the town continued steadily to increase, and the open spaces to be built upon. Our first advertisement is

LAND TO BUILD UPON.

March 1, 1802.—To be Let, several quantities of Land, belonging to Miss Fisher, situated in the Parish of Birmingham, heretofore called the Workhouse Field, and fronting to several new laid out Streets there (already in part built upon) and called Moland, Legge, and Fisher Streets. The same may be respectively taken, in small Building Lots, or in any larger Quantity that may appear more eligible for building upon. For further Particulars enquire of Mr. Josiah Robins, Surveyor, or Mr. W. Horne, No. 22, Legge-street aforesaid.

The next takes us to a part of the town which at this time was a scene of rural beauty; a very paradise of cottages surrounded by their beautiful gardens. The Cottage of Content exists at the present time: the gardens are almost all built upon :—

A CAPITAL GARDEN.

May 17, 1802.—To be disposed of, a Garden, lately belonging to Mr. John Smith, Die-sinker, deceased, with an excellent Summer House, a choice Collection of Fruit Trees, Flowers, Shrubs, well fenced, &c., situated near the Cottage of Content. For Particulars apply to Mr. W. Jenkins, Loveday-street, Birmingham.

N.B.—Mr. Parr, at the Cottage, will shew the Garden.

The following is the last record we have relating to a once famous ornament of the town :—

TOWN CLOCK.

Oct. 4, 1802.—To be Sold, the Clock with three Dials, now belonging to the Welsh Cross, Birmingham, also the weather Vane, Iron Work, and Ball thereto belonging. Apply to Mr. Thomas Greaves, Clockmaker, High-street, or Mr. W. Jones, Builder, Snow Hill, Birmingham.

The houses in Newhall Street were still adorned with gardens :—

CAPITAL HOUSE IN NEWHALL STREET.

November 29th, 1802.—To be Let, a very good House, in compleat Repair, fit for the Residence of a large genteel Family, containing four Rooms on the ground Floor, also a China Closet, two other Closets, and Pantry; eight handsome Lodging Rooms, excellent Cellars, spacious entire Yard and Gardens, a large Brewhouse and Laundry over, a large compleat four-stall Stable, with Saddle House, &c., now in the Occupation of Mrs. Startin. —For Particulars please to apply at the House.

The gardens in Edgbaston Street were now being sold :—

SALE OF GARDEN GROUNDS, &C.

October 10th, 1803.—To be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, by Thomas Lucas and Son, on Wednesday next, the 12th of October instant, at Four o'clock in the Afternoon, the immediate Possession (subject to Conditions then to be produced) of a well-planted Garden and Yard, with a Stream of soft Water running through it; together with a Brick Stable and other Appurtenances, late in the Occupation of Mr. Long, as a Fellmonger's Yard, and situated at the Back of Edgbaston Street, near Lady Well.

Great changes have taken place in Newhall Street since the following advertisement of an elegant mansion appeared. The house, which then stood almost alone, is now surrounded and crowded in by buildings :—

AN ELEGANT MANSION.

February 20th, 1804.—To be peremptorily Sold by Auction, by T. Warren, at the Swan Tavern, in Bull Street, Birmingham, on Wednesday, the 29th instant, at Four o'clock, subject to Conditions then to be produced, all that capital genteel Dwelling House, with its Appurtenances, eligibly situate in Newhall Street, at the Corner of Lionel Street, Birmingham, late the Residence of Mr. J. B. Rolls, Merchant (but now unoccupied), held under two Leases granted by Charles Colmore, Esq., for a Term in which 88 Years will be unexpired at Lady Day next.

The Premises consist of eight good Lodging Rooms, two Dressing Rooms, Water Closet, a spacious Drawing Room, two excellent Front Parlours, a Hall with double Entrance, and a lofty flight of Stone Steps, with Iron Ballustrade in Front; a China Closet, Kitchen, Brewhouse, good Cellars, and other suitable domestic Offices, together with a range of Warehouses, Compting House, an entire Yard, with Pump of good Water, a Garden, and other conveniences lying behind the said Mansion, all enclosed by Brick Walls; there are also two commodious spacious Vaults for the Stowage of Goods in Front of Lionel Street aforesaid, but very conveniently detached from the rest of the Premises.

The House (independent of the great Advantage of a compleat Lead Roof, and a large Lead Reservoir, with Aqueducts for the Supply of the Water Closet and other

Copied from Dugdale's Warwickshire Published in 1656.

Apartments) is built in a remarkably substantial Manner, and fitted up in the best style, with an elegant Mahogany Staircase, Mahogany Doors, Marble Chimney Pieces, &c., in all the principal Rooms ; it has also recently undergone many expensive improvements, so as to render it a truly compleat and eligible Residence for a Professional Gentleman, as well as for a genteel Family, either in the Mercantile or Manufacturing Line.

Further Particulars may be known of Mr. Whately, Solicitor, in Cherry Street, or of the Auctioneer, Dale End, who will show the Premises.

Heath Mill Lane is now being encroached on ; but what a picture of the place in 1805 is given in the following advertisement :—

April 22, 1805.—To be Sold by Private Treaty, either together or in Lots, all those ten modern and substantially-built Freehold Messuages, situated in Deritend, in the Parish of Aston, near Birmingham, and fronting upon a Street or Road there, called Heath-mill Lane, *and abutting upon the Heath-mill Stream or Pool.*

These Houses are well deserving of Attention not only on account of the Soundness and Solidity of the Building, and the peculiar Convenience of the Out-offices belonging thereto, but also by reason that *every two of them have the accommodation of an entire Yard and Garden walled in*, containing a Pump well supplied with good Water for Family Use, together with an easy access to the Pool Water for other purposes ; and are therefore well adapted either to private Residences, or to Manufactories requiring a plentiful Supply of Water.

Apply to Mr. Lowe, of Ravenhurst, Bordesley, near Birmingham.

The changes in the town since a garden was to be sold in the "Central walk leading from the Cottage of Content to the Sand Pits" has been great indeed! Yet there are many persons living who can trace in their minds the delightful appearance of this part of the town, when the following advertisement appeared :—

GARDEN.

April 22, 1805.—To be Sold by Auction, on the Spot, by W. Goode, on Wednesday next, April 24, 1805, precisely at Three o'clock in the Afternoon, an excellent Garden, well fenced, and planted with Fruit Trees and Vegetables, in a high state of cultivation, with a Brick Summer House and other Conveniences, pleasantly situated, being No. 145 in the Cottage Field, the Central Walk leading from the Cottage of Content to the Sand Pits.

We have quoted several passages about the Moat, some of them recording fatal accidents which occurred in consequence of the want of proper protection. The Moat is, however, destined to be destroyed with so many more records of the past. The march of improvement and the growth of the town are, bit by bit, swallowing up all the old land marks. The Moat was in such a muddy condition it would not be correct to call it a water mark. But whatever its condition, it is now to be dried up and built upon. Read and perpend :—

October 14, 1805.—To be Let in Lots, on Building Leases, near the central part of Birmingham, and being within three minutes' walk from the Market Place, all that valuable Spot called the Moat, which will be laid dry for that purpose. For further particulars apply to Mr. John Parker, Digbeth, where a plan of the Premises lies for Inspection.

Old houses are also being taken down, as is proved by this record of a miraculous escape :—

August 26, 1805.—On Monday the lives of two persons in this town were in a most providential and miraculous manner preserved. In taking down one of the old houses, four stories high, in the Bull Ring, the workmen employed very incautiously overburdened the floor of the uppermost story, which, from the pressure, gave way, and the unfortunate men were precipitated, with an accumulated load of brick, timber, and rubbish, into the cellar. We are, however, able to announce that both of them are again able to follow their occupations.

Another improvement is thus recorded :—

October 21, 1805.—It gives us pleasure to observe the great improvements which are making in Bradford-street, by removing the hill at the top and carrying the soil to the lower part thereof. We think it proper, however, in order to prevent accidents, to recommend travellers and the public in general to avoid passing with horses or carriages along that part of Deritend till a safe and secure road is completed.

We are now about to narrate one of the most important changes yet made in the appearance of the town. In the old maps, and in the memories of old inhabitants, one of the most distinctive characteristic pictures is the situation of the parish church. We see it, and they remember it, entirely surrounded by houses. Such was the condition of the church until the year 1806,* when it was agreed to remove the houses and enlarge the churchyard. With these alterations also pass away such places as Cock or Well Street, Well Yard, and Corn Cheaping, and their names only preserve the memory of their existence. The first announcement of this great change was made in a very brief advertisement :—

A Most Desirable Improvement of St. Martin's Churchyard.

May 26th, 1806.—Many of the principal Inhabitants of the Town, fully persuaded of the Utility of opening St. Martin's Church on every Side, have agreed to lend to the Churchwardens and the Commissioners of the Birmingham Street Acts certain Sums of Money requisite for the Purchase of the adjacent Buildings, to be repaid, with Interest, and they have little Doubt of the kind Concurrence of others in the Accomplishment of so laudable a Design. The Sum of £3,600 is already subscribed.

A short editorial note of the same date affords a little additional information on this question. The readers are told that "A sub-

* By a misprint in page 17 of Vol. 1 the year of this change is given as 1800; readers will please correct it to 1806.

ST MARTIN'S LANE.

scription is set on foot for the improvement of the town, which in the short space of three hours amounted to £3,600. The loan is to be refunded within a limited time, and the interest of 5 per cent. regularly paid half-yearly. Of course it will be a desirable kind of security for those who are disposed to lay out their money to the best account, and add to the accommodation and health of the town they reside in."

By June 2 we learn that the subscription had reached £5,450; and on June 9 we read :—

The Subscription for the removal of houses round St. Martin's Church in this town now amounts to 8,450*l.* Indeed, when it is recollected the many accidents that happen to carriages from the narrowness of a part of the Bull Ring, we are not surprised that the inhabitants feel a laudable desire to remove a nuisance so much complained of by all who visit the place.

Mr. M. D. Hill informs me that the chief merit of the important improvement made in the neighbourhood of St. Martin's was ascribed, both by friends and opponents, to Richard Pratchett, a druggist, whose shop was either the same as, or situated close to, that now occupied by Mr. Sumner, in High Street.* He was also a leading man among the Commissioners. "A Tory," says Mr. Hill, "he became an object of attack for the small wits of Birmingham, who accused him in rhymes of no very lofty character of a great partiality for expending public money on his own part of the town. One of these epigrams lives in my memory. To make it intelligible, I should say that he destroyed the last hope of a further widening of Union Street, which, Hutton says, former authorities had made a *leetle* better than theretofore by building the Dispensary on the narrow line of the street as it existed in Pratchett's time. The verses run as follows :—

'To Pratchett, a friend of the true Church!
A friend? Aye, he is, and a bold one;
Why, he's stopped up a road to the New Church,
But he's opened all ways to the Old one!'"

Another squib of the day was—

Sing to the praise of Richard Pratchett,
A name so great that none can match it!

Attention was also being paid to the Market, which was then held in the High Street. The inconveniences arising from this practice are set forth in the following notice from the Commissioners :—

* See Plate D in Bisset's Magnificent Directory. In this Work Pratchett's Shop appears next door to *Aris's Gazette Office.*

June 2nd, 1806.—In consequence of the many accidents which daily occur in the High Street from the number of Stalls being erected on Market and other days, to the great annoyance of passengers of every description, the Commissioners of the Birmingham Street Acts have very laudably given orders that no stall shall be erected, or vegetables thrown down, between Mr. Knight's house (late the Welsh Cross) and the end of Philip Street *after this day*, there now being ample room in the Bull Ring for every purpose of that kind; and whoever offends will have their goods seized by the officers of the town, and the heaviest penalties will be levied.

The earnestness of the inhabitants in making the improvements is proved by the rapidity with which the necessary funds were raised. On June 30 this advertisement appeared :—

IMPROVEMENTS OF THE TOWN.

The Churchwardens of Saint Martin's Parish and the Commissioners are highly gratified and flattered by the approbation and pecuniary Support of so many respectable Inhabitants, and, though they find it unnecessary to solicit additional Subscriptions, yet they are well convinced that many more Names of equal Respectability may be added; and they, therefore, will leave the List with the Printers, an Increase of which will afford still higher Satisfaction, as nearly approaching to a cordial Unanimity in the Execution of a most desirable Plan.

Improvements were also being carried on in other parts of the town. The bottom end of Worcester Street was very narrow, and the commissioners resolved to widen it; and the town appears to have made a profit by the transaction. The example might be followed by those now in power, who have often looked down with something like contempt on the labours of our old commissioners :—

IMPROVEMENTS OF THE TOWN.

October 6, 1806.—The old houses purchased by the Commissioners of the Birmingham Street Acts, nine months ago, to widen the bottom part of Worcester-street, were put up for Sale by public auction on Tuesday; and so much will that part of the town be improved by the alterations, that some small lots of land and the materials of the building were sold for such large sums, that the town will gain £200 by the purchase, besides the removal of a dangerous nuisance. The materials of the old prison, in Peck Lane, were sold for £250.

The well-known Lombard House was at this period really a country residence, and one to which any manufacturer, merchant, or professional might retire after his day's duties, and enjoy his *otium cum dignitate* with pleasure and satisfaction. It is thus described in an advertisement :—

LOMBARD HOUSE.

June 8th, 1807.—Near the Apollo, Deritend. To be Let, and entered upon in August or September next, the above very commodious House, and Garden adjoining. The House contains two Parlours, Servant's Hall, Kitchen, Scullery, six Lodging Rooms, good

Cellaring, Stable, and other conveniences; the Garden is well stocked, and the whole covers Half an Acre of Ground, and forms a very desirable and pleasant Residence.

Apply to Mr. Thomas Webb, on the Premises.

In 1807 the eyes of the Birmingham people were delighted by the erection of the famous Bull Ring Pump, and which took the place of a more humble one, which had hitherto been somewhat concealed by the houses surrounding the church. The architect was Mr. William Hollins, father of our present sculptor, Mr. Peter Hollins. It was considered one of the improvements with which Mr. Pratchett had so much to do, and an ornament to the town. Its erection caused much talk at the time, and the architect published the following description of the pump, which he somewhat grandiloquently calls "the Egyptian Conduit."

To the Printers.

January 18, 1808.—As a great deal has been said about, and very little, I believe, generally understood of, the architecture of the Egyptian Conduit, lately erected in the market place, and as some, perhaps, think it beneath their notice, others will not take the trouble, and the remainder do not know how, I feel it a duty which I owe the public, my employers, and myself, to endeavour, by a fair explanation, to remove those prejudices, which, I trust, every candid mind will ultimately allow to have been rather too hastily formed. At a time when the consequences attending the splendid victory attained by our immortal Hero, the late Lord Nelson, at the Nile, have introduced, not only into the palaces of our princes, and the castles of our nobles, but into the houses of our merchants and our manufacturers, a new style of ornamental furniture and decoration, namely, the Egyptian; at such a time I considered that style of architecture to be the best adapted for a public building, particularly as the Statue, which public gratitude and veneration are about to raise to the memory of that ever to be lamented Hero, is intended to be placed so near the spot. When I contemplated the noble Gothic Basilica, dedicated to Christianity, which stands at the back of the Conduit, I conceived it might be possible to blend, at least, the idea of the Egyptian, the Grecian, and the English architecture. The pyramidical form being, among the Egyptians, emblematical of the Deity, I considered would not appear to be improperly standing near that sacred Fane. The Egyptian Pyramid was likewise an emblem of strength, built to last, to perpetuate, and to hand down to the remotest ages, the wonderful skill of the Egyptian builders of an unknown date, erected for an unknown purpose, and whose massive stones were brought from an unknown place, according to some authors, and according to others, 3,297 years have rolled away since the erection of this mighty pile, for a Mausoleum or Sepulchre, to receive the ashes of their departed kings. But authors of more celebrity contend that it was erected for a more noble purpose; for as the whole of the Egyptian theology was clothed in mystic emblems and figures, so was the external form of the building a representation of their God Osiris, or the Sun, as being in the form of the Sun's ray; and that the Diety which was typified in the outward form was to be worshipped within. It contained a trough of granite marble, as a reservoir for the holy water used in their religious ceremonies, which, by means of a well in the Pyramid, was drawn out of the Nile. The propriety of such a building enclosing a well of water for public use, I trust, will not be disputed. I have

ornamented it with a representation of the Papyrus, grouped in form of quarter columns at each angle, with Grecian Honeysuckles, and with an Urn at the top, which last may be considered as a symbol of our departed Hero's ashes; as proper appendages, the Lion's Head is significant of that Hero's strength and prowess in battle, and of his noble disposition when not opposed to an enemy; as disgorging the water, it is a symbol of the element, for the Egyptians believed water to be the strength and principle of all things. Besides, the Lion's Head is a very ancient ornament for water spouts, and was used in all Grecian Temples. The Pyramid is also in the form of a flame of fire, and within this form the Grecian and Roman statuaries wrought those sublime and beautiful groups of figures which have been the admiration of every age. These, Gentlemen, were the considerations which induced me to adopt such a form for a building which, though so small in bulk that the whole expence of erecting it will not, probably, exceed fifty pounds, is, in my opinion, so great in significance that I do not hesitate publicly to acknowledge myself as the architect.

I am, Gentlemen, yours, &c.,

WILLIAM HOLLINS.

In a few days the following diverting pasquinade was published in the *Birmingham Commercial Herald*:—

Necessarium est mitti à te, vel aquilegem, vel architectum, ne rursus eveniat, quod accidit.—PLIN. Ep.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE PUMP IN THE BULL RING TO THE INHABITANTS OF BIRMINGHAM.

SHEWETH,—That your Petitioner hath been a resident in the town of Birmingham many years, and hath always been accounted a good neighbour and useful member of society. That your Petitioner hath uniformly borne a good character, both in morals and religion; and in all the changes which have taken place, he has never forsaken the church, as he can prove by credible witnesses. That your Petitioner, being by nature unostentatious, took up his abode in a narrow passage below the Shambles, where he quietly remained unnoticed, and almost unknown, except by his neighbours. That in this age of innovation, your Petitioner hath found himself suddenly thrust into notice by the destruction of certain buildings behind which he had, for so many years, screened himself, and that, on looking around, your Petitioner could scarcely recognise his old acquaintance, Moor Street, who, like your Petitioner, lived in a very retired way, and who was noted for being a disagreeable, close old fellow, began to give himself the airs of a young man, and instead of the dirty garments he formerly wore, shone away in gaudy apparel. That your Petitioner, in his exposed situation, grew ashamed of his old coat and hat, and hearing that a certain ingenious clothier had supplied Moor Street with his splendid habiliments, your Petitioner ordered from him the new garments which he now wears, and which has so transmogrified him that he is scarcely known by his best friends. That your Petitioner having asked calmly why he supplied a coat of such an outlandish cut, the said clothier broke out into such an incoherent rhapsody about Basilicas, Lotuses, Papyrus, Pyramids, Fire, Ashes and Water, Egypt and Greece, departed Heroes, Urns, Statues, &c., that your Petitioner verily concluded that "much learning had made him mad." That since the said clothier finished your Petitioner's coat, he has dubbed him with the new name of Conduit, whereas the family name of your Petitioner has been from time immemorial plain Pump, which he hopes may be continued, maugre the said clothier.

That, although your Petitioner is somewhat stricken in years, he disdains the imputation of having become a Driveller, which it is evident the said clothier has attempted to cast upon him, by having affixed to him a slobbering bib as part of his apparel. That the aforesaid clothier has passed a sentence of denationalization against your Petitioner, who is a true-born Englishman, although the said clothier asserts that he is a gipsy. That your Petitioner is well disposed to live peaceably, but he fears he shall be involved in a dispute with his opposite neighbour, the statue, in consequence of his having been forced, much against his will, to interfere with the concerns of the said statue. The truth of these premises being made apparent, your Petitioner prays your humane interference to prevent his name from being changed from "the Pump in the Bull Ring," to that of "Egyptian Conduit in the Forum," as proposed in Aris's paper, and your Petitioner shall ever pray.

This "Egyptian Conduit" was removed in 1836, and its place is now occupied by a structure as ugly as was the old pump itself.

A water mill in Park Street is a thing difficult for living persons to realise. In 1809, however, one was advertised to be let there. The announcement records that it had been lately used in the thread trade—a business which has entirely fled from this town. Our extract is the last allusion to the noble attempt of Lewis Paul and John Wyatt to add cotton-spinning to the other industries of Birmingham :—

WATER MILL, &c.

March 27, 1809.—To be Let and entered upon immediately, a Water Mill, with the Warehouses, Compting-houses, Shops, Dye-houses, Drying Houses, Stoves, Stables, and other Buildings, situate and being in and near Park Street, Birmingham.

These Premises have been lately used in the Thread Trade, to which they are particularly well adapted, but they may easily be converted to other Purposes, and from their central Situation are well worthy of Notice.

Also several Buildings adjoining the above Premises, well adapted for Shopping and other Purposes, Part of which contain a large powerful Wheel, calculated for Polishing or Turning light Articles.

Also a good Dwelling House, with Shopping sufficient to employ 80 pair of hands, also situated near Park-street aforesaid.

Also to be Let, on Building Leases, a Quantity of Land near the above premises. Apply to Mr. Burrish, Attorney, Temple Row.

The reader has only to take a walk in Summer Lane to bring vividly before him the change which has taken place since the following advertisement appeared :—

CAPITAL GARDENS.

May 29th, 1809.—To be Sold, together or separate, two excellent Gardens, in the second Walk on the Left Hand Side of Summer Lane, near the Hospital, with good Fences, in high Condition, and planted with the Vegetables of the season, which are in a very forward and luxuriant State; containing also various Fruit Trees, such as Plums, Cherries, Apples, Pears, Siberian Crabs, Gooseberries, Raspberries, &c.; also a constant Spring of excellent Water, which forms a small Fish-pond. Apply to Mr. Lebon, Steam Mills, Snow Hill, Birmingham.

The following notice gives us full information of the method of raising the money for the improvements in the Bull Ring :—

IMPROVEMENT OF ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH YARD, AND ADDITIONAL BURIAL GROUND.

August 5th, 1811.—Whereas an Act of Parliament was passed in the Year 1807, for enlarging the Church Yard belonging to the Parish of St. Martin's, in Birmingham, in the County of Warwick, and for providing an additional Burial Ground for the Use of the said Parish;

And whereas, to enable the Trustees named in the aforesaid Act to raise Money to defray the Expences of taking down the Buildings situate round the said Church Yard, for the purpose of enlarging the same, and to purchase other Land for an additional Cemetery, or Burial Ground, the following Clause is contained in the said Act:

"And be it further enacted, that from Time to Time, and as often as any Money shall be wanted to pay for any Messuages, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, which shall be Purchased for the Purposes of this Act, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Churchwardens and Trustees, at a Vestry Meeting for that Purpose, to be summoned by Writing under their Hands, to make an Assessment or Assessments, Rate or Rates, on the Occupiers of all Lands, Houses, Shops, Warehouses, Vaults, Coach-houses, Stables, Cellars, Gardens, Tenements, and Hereditaments, within the Town and Parish of Birmingham, in Addition to the Rates and Levies the said Churchwardens are already authorized and empowered to make, in any Sum of Money *not exceeding three Pence in the Pound in any One Year*, on the annual or improved Rent or Value of such Lands, Houses, Shops, Warehouses, Vaults, Coach-houses, Stables, Cellars, Gardens, Tenements, and Hereditaments as aforesaid, such Rates and Sums of Money as shall be so assessed or rated as aforesaid, all which said Rates and Assessments, to be rated, assessed, and collected, are hereby vested in the said Trustees, in Trust to be applied by them for the Purposes of this Act, and shall continue *for and during such Time as any of the Monies, to be borrowed at Interest, or raised by the Sale of Annuities upon the Credit of this Act, as hereinmentioned, shall remain owing, or have Continuance*, and no longer."

Many of the Inhabitants having refused to pay the Assessments made under the Authority of the said Act, on pretence that they are not liable, or that they do not understand the Purport or Meaning of the said Rate, it is found necessary to publish the foregoing Extract of the Act. All Persons are, therefore, requested to pay to the Collector their respective Levies and Arrears, when called for, as, in case of Refusal, the Trustees have ordered Payment to be enforced. It is hoped, also, that the Inhabitants, considering the Expence of collecting so small a Levy, will not occasion the Trouble of repeated Calls.

The first Levy from		Michaelmas, 1808,	to	Michaelmas, 1809.
The second	ditto	1809,	ditto	1810.
The third	ditto	1810,	ditto	1811.

R. W. GEM,
Clerk and Treasurer to the said Trustees.

Our townsman, Mr. Thomas Hollins, did a useful bit of work this year. The words "picturesque appearance of the adjacent country" in a view of High Street sound strangely to modern ears; but in 1811 they were literally correct.

September 16, 1811.—We are happy to announce that an ingenious artist of this town, Mr. Thomas Hollins, has succeeded in making a very beautiful drawing of the High-street. The view takes in the whole prospect from nearly the top of High-street, including the elegant statue erected to the immortal Nelson, St. Martin's Church, and the picturesque appearance of the adjacent country. We understand that Mr. Hollins intends to publish a print from it immediately; and we are convinced that it will afford satisfaction to every person connected with the town of Birmingham, from the excellent style of the painting, and from the judicious point of view from which the artist has taken it.

In scarcely any decade of our history have greater changes been made in the appearance of the town than that which closed in 1811.

§ 2. PUBLIC LIFE AND EVENTS.

The public life of the town for the present decade was mainly displayed in organising and keeping up the volunteer companies. This great and necessary work, however, did not entirely absorb the energies and attention of the inhabitants. One of the earliest public events was the reception of our greatest sea captain—"the greatest sailor since our world begun"—Lord Nelson. There was a fear that he would not pass through our town, but this was happily removed; and on Monday, the 29th of August, the noble hero paid us a visit. How the inhabitants received him will be seen from the following report:—

September 6, 1802.—The hopes expressed in our last that the invitation from our High and Low Bailiffs would induce Lord Nelson to alter his determination of not passing through this town, we are happy to say, have been fully gratified, as, on Monday afternoon, about half-past five o'clock, his Lordship, accompanied by Sir William and Lady Hamilton, Dr. and Mrs. Nelson, their son and suite, arrived at Style's Hotel, in this town, from Worcester. In consequence of his Lordship's coming two hours sooner than was expected, but few people met him at his entrance into the town; the knowledge of his arrival soon, however, became general, the bells were rung, and an immense crowd collected round the Hotel, anxious to behold the gallant Admiral who had so nobly fought and bled in his country's service. His Lordship kindly gratified their curiosity by repeatedly shewing himself at the window, when he was as repeatedly greeted with the applauding shouts of the surrounding multitude. Shortly after his arrival, James Woolley and Timothy Smith, Esqrs., our High and Low Bailiffs, waited upon his Lordship, and in the evening the whole party attended the Theatre, both to and from whence the carriage was drawn by the populace. On the entrance of his Lordship the band struck up "Rule Britannia," and the whole house rose and testified, by their unanimous and long continued plaudits, the gratification they experienced at the sight of the "Hero returned from the Nile." Tuesday morning the noble party, attended by the High and Low Bailiffs, and the Magistrates, and followed by a very large crowd of

people, repeatedly huzzaing, proceeded to view some of the different manufactories of the town, viz., Mr. Clay's Japan Manufactory, Messrs. W. and R. Smith's Button Manufactory, Messrs. Woolley and Deakin's Sword Manufactory, Messrs. Simcox and Timmins' Buckle and Ring Manufactory, and Messrs. Timmins and Jordan's Patent Sash Manufactory; from thence his Lordship was drawn by the populace to Mr. Eginton's Stained Glass Manufactory, at Handsworth; from Mr. Eginton's the party paid a short visit to Mr. Boulton, at Soho, whose health would only permit him to receive them in his bed chamber; they were afterwards shewn the Mint, and had several applicable medals struck in their presence. From Soho they returned to the Hotel to partake of an elegant dinner (consisting of every delicacy the season could afford), provided by the High and Low Bailiffs, who had invited a select party of gentlemen to meet them. After dinner, Lady Hamilton favoured the company with several songs in the most superior style. In the evening the whole party again attended the Theatre, where Lord Nelson had bespoke Shakespear's First Part of King Henry 4, and the farce of the Review, or the Wags of Windsor. His Lordship was again received with every possible demonstration of admiration and respect, and several appropriate songs, written for the occasion, were introduced in the course of the performance. Wednesday morning his Lordship and friends, attended and followed as on the preceding day, visited Mr. Radenhurst's Whip Manufactory, Messrs. T. and T. Richard's Toy-shop, Mr. T. Phipson's Pin Manufactory, and Mr. Bisset's Museum. They then proceeded to the Blue Coat Charity School, where they expressed much pleasure at the appearance of the children; from thence they returned to the Hotel, and soon after one o'clock set out for Warwick Castle.

Previous to his departure his Lordship expressed, in the strongest terms, the sense he entertained of the very respectful attention which had been shewn him, and the pleasure and satisfaction he had experienced during his stay in the town.

The laws against the combination of working men were very severe, but they could not prevent such a natural use of freedom. This year the shoemakers united to obtain an increase of wages. The opinion of the masters on the subject is expressed in the following paragraph :—

November 1, 1802.—Combination, that enemy to industry and improvement, still continues to exert its baneful influences. Notwithstanding the very high wages allowed to journeymen shoe makers, and the daily reduction in the price of provisions, the working people of this class, in this town, following the example of their brother Crispins in London, demand an increased allowance, though boots and shoes are already become enormously expensive. We trust, therefore, that the wisdom and power of the Legislature will interpose, and adopt some system which may remove this great and accumulating evil.

In December the charities of the town were enriched by some munificent legacies. One of them was for erecting a Free Church, which, in the course of time, was completed, and Christ Church was added to our places of worship. The legacies thus bequeathed were as follow :—

December 20, 1802.—We feel infinite pleasure in stating that our High Bailiff, last week, received a letter from Isaac Hawkins Browne, Esq., informing him that he and the Rev. T. Gisborne, as the executors of the late — Hawkins, Esq., of Burton, have proposed to the Court of Chancery (who have expressed their approbation) to give the following sums to charitable institutions, &c., in this town, being a proportion of the property devised by Mr. Hawkins to Trustees, to be disposed of in charitable donations, viz., the sum of *two thousand pounds* in the 3 per cent. consols to the General Hospital; *six hundred pounds* 3 per cent. consols to the Blue Coat Charity School; and *five hundred pounds* in cash towards the erecting of a Free Church in this town, if the plan now in agitation be happily carried into effect. The Committee of the Blue Coat Charity School meet this evening, and a Quarterly Board will be holden at the Hospital to-morrow, when the High Bailiff will attend to lay Mr. Browne's letter before them.

The question of a Free Church was further discussed in a letter which appeared on January 10, 1803.

To the Printers.

Gentlemen,—As I understand that a public Meeting is to be convened on Friday next, it is much to be wished, as well for the advantage as for the honour of Birmingham, that the following information should be stated to its inhabitants. The late valuable offer of £500 in aid of a plan for building a Free Church, can only be confirmed to them by a liberal and immediate encouragement of the plan. The Lord Chancellor's sanction to the benevolent designs of the Executors depends at this moment on the probability of an *actual commencement* of the measure. His decision is suspended for a few days, that the inhabitants may be able to consider that measure, and to declare their sentiments by their local contributions. Can a nobler opportunity be given for the laudable exertions of my Townsmen, and for a *general display* of that *spirit* which has long distinguished the conduct of this town in the prompt execution of great public undertakings? I have the pleasure to hear, also, that the Lord Bishop of this diocese has offered to assist the proposed plan, by annexing a Prebend in the Church of Lichfield to the income of the Free Church; but this, it seems, will require an Act of Parliament, giving his Lordship the appointment of the Minister, as he cannot deprive future Bishops of the patronage at present belonging to the See.

Heartily wishing that my Townsmen may accept and secure these valuable offers,

I am, Gentlemen, your humble Servant,

Birmingham, Jan. 7, 1803 A.B.C.

A pamphlet on the subject was published by a neighbouring clergyman of the last century, and a public meeting was held on January 14, with the following results :—

Free Church.

January 17th, 1803.—A very respectable Meeting of the inhabitants of this town was held (pursuant to advertisements) on Friday morning, at the Shakespeare Tavern, when the thanks of the meeting were unanimously resolved to be given to Isaac Hawkins Browne, Esq., and the Rev. T. Gisborne, (as Executors to Isaac Hawkins, Esq.) for their offer of £500 sterling towards erecting a Free Church; to the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, for his offer of annexing a prebend of the cathedral church of Lichfield to the income of the said church; and to W. P. Inge, Esq., for

his offer of a site of land on which the church might be erected. It was then resolved that the above generous offers be gratefully accepted, if the right of patronage be not disputed; and that a subscription be entered into for the purpose of carrying the plan into effect; when upwards of *two thousand pounds* were immediately subscribed. Some other names have since been added, making the amount of the subscription already received £2,390 15s. Books were ordered to be left with the different Bankers, &c., for the purpose of receiving the names of those persons desirous of subscribing, and we doubt not that a sum amply sufficient to perfect this plan (the objects of which are so momentous) will speedily be subscribed.

The subscriptions soon reached over £3,000, and on February 21 the committee issued this appeal :—

BIRMINGHAM FREE CHURCH.

The Committee of Subscribers to the Plan of Building a Free Church in Birmingham, take the Liberty of proposing that Plan to Public Patronage. In the large and populous town of Birmingham, the lower classes are, at present, in a great measure excluded from the Churches and Chapels by the Want of Accommodation; and are consequently deprived of the means and advantages of attending Divine Service, as Members of the Church of England. To the Opulent, the Humane, and the Religious, it will suffice briefly to suggest the various and alarming Evils resulting from this circumstance, not merely in a local but in a *national* point of view. The Effects are Schism, Indifference to the highest Duties, Violation of the Sabbath, and Depravity of Morals! The Committee, therefore, are induced to offer this public Notice of their Undertaking, as they venture to assure themselves that many benevolent and pious Persons, who may thus become informed of their Designs, will gladly assist them in accomplishing a work so expensive and so important. Many (it is presumed), though *unconnected* with the *Place*, will not be willing to *pass by as Strangers*, when an interesting Object solicits their Support, or the united Pleas of a general Regard to the Welfare of Society and the unlimited influence of Christian Charity.

The Committee respectfully inform those Inhabitants who kindly intend to Support the Undertaking, that a personal Application will be made to them if required; but earnestly request them to render that step unnecessary by a *voluntary Attendance* to subscribe their Names and Contributions. A Board is placed for that Purpose at the Charity School in St. Philip's Church Yard, in Addition to the Places already Advertised, viz., the several Banks of this Town, and the Shops of Messrs. Knott and Lloyd and Mr. Swinney.

A townsman made the following offer to the committee :—

April 4th, 1803.—Among the liberal contributors to the intended Free Church we may justly notice the name of *Mr. James Millar*, a native of this place. That able and ingenious artist has very handsomely proposed to give a picture (already painted) for an altar piece; or to paint one upon any subject which the Committee may prefer, to the value of *one hundred pounds*.

The Bill passed both the Houses of Parliament, and on July 11 we read that "The Royal Assent was on Tuesday given, by commission, to the Bill for erecting a new Church, to be called Christ Church, in

this town; and for providing a maintenance and residence for the Minister or perpetual Curate thereof."

In this year a laudable effort was made to induce manufacturers to pay their workpeople their wages at an early hour on Saturday. We have no account whether this appeal was successful or not :—

March 14th, 1803.—The Constables and Churchwardens of this town having, with a laudable Zeal, determined to prosecute all Persons who exercise their Trade on the Lord's Day, the Magistrates feel it a Duty they owe to the labouring Poor, earnestly to request all Merchants, Factors, and Manufacturers, to pay their respective workmen at an early Hour on the Saturday, that they may not be under the necessity of breaking the Law, or going without Meat or other necessary Food on the Sunday.

WM. VILLERS. GEO. SIMCOX.
WM. HICKS. THEO. PRICE.

The Old Meeting congregation lost their pastor this year, and the *Gazette*, in recording his death, testifies to the admirable Christian character of the deceased :—

June 27, 1803.—Tuesday, after a short illness, in the 70th year of his age, the Rev. Radcliffe Scholefield, 30 years Pastor of the Old Meeting Congregation in this town, who, as a man, a Christian, and a minister, exhibited that steady friendship, active benevolence, cheerful piety, and sweetness of disposition, which will long endear his memory to a numerous circle of friends and acquaintance.

The next extracts refer once more to that important subject, the copper trade :—

October 31, 1803.—We have the satisfaction to hear, that owing to the very scanty supply the trade of this town has lately had of copper, occasioned, we believe, by a general increased demand for that article, some persons of respectability are coming forward to establish a New Copper Company here. When we consider the fostering aid which the present state of the trade of the town requires, and when, on the other hand, we discover a disposition not only to maintain it, but to multiply its sources and prosperity, we cannot but consider such efforts as truly laudable, and such as merit universal commendation and support.

COPPER.

November 7, 1803.—On the subject of the supply of copper for the trade of this town, we have received the following statement, confirmed to us by several very respectable manufacturers, who are themselves large consumers of that article :—The two Copper Companies already established in this town are capable of smelting far more than sufficient to supply the manufacturers, and the complaints made by any of the members of those companies have been, not that too small, but that too large a quantity has been allotted to them quarterly. This has compelled the companies to seek other markets for the disposal of the superabundance; but to them they never resort while the manufacturers of this town and neighbourhood are in want, it having been their first and principal object to supply those wants. The principal reason why copper has lately been scarce in Birmingham, has been the very unusual scarcity of water in the Severn, which has almost

put a stop to the navigation of that river for many months past. If other new companies were to be established for the purpose of opening new Copper Mines, the quantity of that article might be augmented; but the instituting of new Smelting Companies would not increase the quantity of copper one ounce; it would have an injurious rather than a beneficial tendency, inasmuch as increasing the number of bidders for copper ores would, in all probability, increase the price, and certainly be productive of other serious evils, which, persons who have not reflected, or who are unacquainted with that trade, are not aware of.

On April 9 the following obituary notice of Dr. Priestley appeared :—

On the 6th of February, at his house, in Northumberland, Pennsylvania, in his 71st year, the Rev. Joseph Priestley, LL.D., F.R.S., and Member of most of the Public and Philosophical Institutions throughout Europe and America. His scientific and other works will be a lasting monument of the vigour of his mental abilities, and the variety of his acquirements. He was many years Pastor of the New Meeting Congregation in this town.

On April 23 we have a fuller notice of this event, copied from the *Philadelphia Gazette*, a notice which will be read with interest by all the admirers of this truly great man :—

DR. PRIESTLEY.

April 23rd, 1804.—In our obituary of the 9th instant we announced the death of the Rev. Dr. Priestley; the report of that event has since been confirmed by letters received from his family in America to their friends in England. The following particulars are copied from the Philadelphia Gazette :—

Since his illness at Philadelphia, in the year 1801, he never regained his former good state of health. His complaint was constant indigestion, and a difficulty of swallowing food of any kind. But during this period of general debility he was busily employed in printing his Church History, and the 1st vol. of his Notes on the Scriptures, and in making new and original experiments. During this period, likewise, he wrote his pamphlet of Jesus and Socrates compared, and reprinted his essay on Phlogiston. From the beginning of November, 1803, to the middle of January, 1804, his complaint grew more serious, yet by judicious medical treatment and strict attention to diet, he, after some time, seemed, if not gaining strength at least not getting worse; and his friends fondly hoped that his health would continue to improve as the season advanced—he, however, considered his life as very precarious. Even at this time, beside his miscellaneous reading, which was at all times very extensive, he read through all the works quoted in his comparison of the different systems of the Grecian Philosophers with Christianity; composed that work, and transcribed the whole of it, in less than three months, so that he has left it ready for the press. During this period he composed, *in one day*, his second reply to Dr. Linn. In the last fortnight of January his fits of indigestion became more alarming, his legs swelled, and his weakness increased. Within two days of his death he became so weak that he could walk but a little way, and that with great difficulty; for some time he found himself unable to speak; but, on recovering a little, he told his friends that he had never felt more pleasantly during his lifetime than during the time that he was unable to speak. He was fully sensible that he had not long to live, yet

talked with cheerfulness to all who called on him. In the course of the day he expressed his thankfulness at being permitted to die quietly, in his family, without pain, and with every convenience and comfort that he could wish for. He dwelt upon the peculiarly happy situation in which it had pleased the Divine Being to place him in life, and the great advantage he had enjoyed in the acquaintance and friendship of some of the best and wisest of men in the age in which he lived, and the satisfaction he derived from having led an useful as well as a happy life. He, this day, gave directions about printing the remainder of his Notes on Scripture (a work in the completion of which he was much interested), and looked over the first sheet of the third volume, after it was corrected by those who were to attend to its completion, and expressed his satisfaction at the manner of its being executed. On Sunday, the 5th, he was much weaker, but sat up in an arm chair for a few minutes. He desired that John xi. chap. might be read to him. He stopped the reader at the 45th verse, dwelt for some time on the advantages he had derived from reading the Scriptures daily, and recommended this practice, saying, that it would prove a source of the purest pleasure. "We shall all (said he) meet finally; we only require different degrees of discipline suited to our different tempers, to prepare us for final happiness." Mr. —— coming into his room, he said—"You see, sir, I am still living." Mr. —— observed, "that he would always live." "Yes, *I believe I shall;* we shall meet again in another and a better world." He said this with great animation, laying hold of Mr. ——'s hand in both his own. After evening prayers, when his grandchildren were brought to his bed-side, he spoke to them separately, and exhorted them to love each other, &c. "I am going (added he) to sleep as well as you, for death is only a good long sound sleep in the grave, and we shall meet again." On Monday morning, the 6th of February, on being asked how he did, he answered in a faint voice, that he had no pain, but appeared fainting away gradually. About eight o'clock, he desired to have three pamphlets which had been looked out by his directions the evening before. *He then dictated as clearly and distinctly as he had ever done in his life, the additions and alterations which he wished to have made in each.* Mr. M—— took down the substance of what he said, which was read to him. He observed, "Sir, you have put in your own language; I wish it to be in *mine.*" *He then repeated over again, nearly word for word, what he had before said*, and when it was transcribed and read over to him, he said, "that is right, I have now done." About half an hour after he desired that he might be moved to a cot. About ten minutes after he was moved to it he died, but breathed his last so easily that those who were sitting close to him did not immediately perceive it. He had put his hand to his face, which prevented them from observing it.

In June of this year the editor of the *Gazette* died, and we gladly quote the following notice of one to whose labours we are so deeply indebted :—

June 18, 1804.—In the performance of a painful duty, we have to add to the catalogue of mortality this week, the name of Mr. Francis Blick, Editor of this Gazette, and son of the Rev. F. Blick, of Bonehill, near Tamworth : he died on Monday morning last, after a few days' illness. It will not be too much to say of his character, that he was at once a pattern to youth and the delight of his friends. Endowed with a penetrating genius, a mind of uncommon strength, and a judgment remarkably acute, this amiable young gentleman had more than equalled all the warmest expectations of a fond and exulting

parent. At the age of twenty-three he seems to have gained, and worthily possessed every honour that moral conduct could merit, every prize that polished manners, and superior abilities, could contend for. But, alas! the weakness of his frame owned no kindred to the energies of his mind. He had accumulated upon it a burthen not proportioned to its powers, and, like ill-sorted travellers, they very early parted. He has been torn from the enjoyments of life at a period when the mellow fruit of study, and the rich prospect of independence, beamed full upon him; and we are persuaded there is not a single individual in the wide-extended circle of his acquaintance who will not long and sincerely lament his loss. The premature dissolution which we are under the sad necessity of recording, affords a striking memorial of the uncertainty of life—an awful admonition to be at all times prepared for death, and for that great event, when we know that the moral conduct, which we commemorate, sprung from faith in Christ, early implanted and deeply rooted, we may humbly hope our young and valued friend was not unprepared.

The sawyers of the town and their masters had a trade dispute this year, but beyond the following notice we can glean no information on the matter, nor learn how it was settled :—

To all Persons interested in the Price of Sawyers' Work.

August 6, 1804.—The Working Sawyers of the town of Birmingham having circulated a printed List of Prices, tending to advance their wages very considerably, the Masters having taken the same into consideration, think it necessary, for the Regulation of the Trade in general, to give this public Notice, that the unreasonable Prices therein named will not be acceded to, and that any Person wishing to be furnished with the regular Prices for all kinds of Sawing, may have a List of them by applying at the Printers of this Paper.

The following statement in reference to the Asylum in Summer Lane gives us full information as to the working of that useful charity at this time :—

Parish of Birmingham.

November 19th, 1804.—The following is a Copy of the Annual Statement made by the Asylum Committee of the Expences and supposed Savings, with the average Number of Children maintained each Year in that Establishment from its commencement in July, 1797, to July, 1804, inclusive.

				Savings to the Parish.		
First Report—July, 1798.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
The average Number of Children, 248, if put out to nurse would cost the Parish 2s. each, per Week	1289	12	0			
Their maintenance, including Rent, Fire, Wages, &c., at the Asylum, at 1s. 4½d. each per Week, cost	884	2	0			
				405	10	0
Second Report—July, 1799.						
The average Number of Children, 290, if at nurse would cost 2s. each per Week	1508	0	0			
Their Maintenance, at 1s. 4½d. each per Week, cost . .	1021	8	5			
				486	11	7

	£	s.	d.	Savings to the Parish. £	s.	d.
Third Report—July 1800.						
The average Number of Children, 269, if at nurse, would cost 2s. 6d. each per Week	1748	10	0			
Their Maintenance, at 1s. 10d. each per Week, cost	1283	1	4			
				465	8	8
Fourth Report—July, 1801.						
The average Number of Children, 281, if at nurse, would cost 3s. each per Week	2191	16	0			
Their Maintenance, at 2s. 1½d. each per Week, cost	1555	14	6			
				636	1	6
Fifth Report.—July, 1802.						
The average Number of Children, 200, if at nurse, would cost 2s. 9d. each per Week	1787	10	0			
Their Maintenance, at 2s. 4½d. each per Week, cost	1532	1	4			
				255	8	8
Sixth Report.—July, 1803.						
The average Number of Children, 200, if at nurse, would cost 2s. 9d. each per Week	1430	0	0			
Their Maintenance, at 2s. 2½d each per Week, cost	1153	10	8			
				276	9	4
Seventh Report.—July, 1804.						
The average Number of Children, 235, if at nurse, would cost 2s. 9d. each per Week	1680	5	0			
Their Maintenance, at 1s. 11½d each per Week, cost	1196	10	10			
				483	14	2
				£3009	3	11

Beside the above Savings in the Maintenance of the Children, they have made considerable Earnings in Labour suited to their Ages ; the Boys in the Heading of Pins and sticking them in Rows ; the Girls in weaving Straw for Ladies' Hats, knitting Stockings for the Workhouse and Asylum, mending Linen, &c. The smaller Children are employed in making Oakum from old Ropes ; the elder Females contribute to the general Comfort by their Labour in the House, which reduces the Establishment to a Governess, Schoolmaster, and Mistress, and one Female Servant. Their Habits of Industry produce a cheerful Subordination, and render them more acceptable when called into any Service in active Life. Their Health is also much benefitted by the Order in which they live ; for many Weeks in Succession not one is to be seen on the sick List, and seldom more than one or two at a Time ; few in such a Number have died, and none are oppressed with hard Labour so as to produce Deformity, which was not uncommon while under the Care of hireling Nurses in the neighbouring Villages.

It might also be added, that the view in making this Report public is, not only to shew the Town that considerable and not unsuccessful Efforts are made to mitigate the Burthens of Parochial Taxes, but at the same time to prevent, in some measure, their Recurrence, by uniting profitable Labour with useful Habits, in this Branch of the Rising Generation

—"The Children of the Poor." It was likewise considered, that it might afford some useful Hints to Neighbouring Parishes, to prove that the moderate Labour of Children is not only productive of present Profit, but of permanent and extensive Benefit to the Parish, and to Society.—Public Office, Birmingham, Oct. 9, 1804.

At a Quarterly Meeting of the Guardians and Overseers of the Poor, the above Report was ordered to be printed.

J. Welch.

The Asylum report elicited the following letter. The present reader will, as we trust his contemporaries did, pardon the writer for expressing his opinions on the subject :—

Nov. 24, 1804.—To the Printers.—Truly, Gentlemen, amidst the calamities of war, and the conflicts of parties, civil and religious, which this town has occasionally witnessed, I felt a peculiar gratification in perusing the brief, but interesting remarks, connected with the statement made by the Asylum Committee, and published in your paper of last week. In whatever view I contemplate the end, the means, and the happy result of this Institution, I acknowledge myself under a species of obligation to the Committee, which I am really at a loss how to express. And, Gentlemen, permit me to ask, through the medium of your paper, if I am to look upon this Asylum for helpless, neglected, and, too often, deserted innocents, so replete with permanent advantages to its objects and to the community, as proceeding from the fluctuating system of parochial economy, to which we have been so many years subject? or are we indebted to a few individuals, who, actuated by a pure spirit of benevolence, are determined, if they cannot accomplish all they *wish*, to do all they *can*, towards lessening the evils of society? Indeed, Gentlemen, if this is the case, such persons command my highest esteem, and deserve the grateful acknowledgments of their neighbours. Their exertions have not been wasted in fruitless efforts beyond their sphere of influence. Whilst many others have been ambitious to preside over or to support a particular sect or party; or have engaged in the hopeless task of promoting uniformity of opinion on literary, political, or religious subjects; they must have better understood the genius of "our venerable charter of immortality," and have endeavoured, in the practice of their duty, to be of one *heart*, rather than of one *mind*. Their report proves that they have been emulous to protect the Orphan, and, silently and assiduously, to promote the health, usefulness, morals, and present and future happiness of that part of the rising generation who have none to help them. Pardon me for thus publicly expressing my feelings on this subject, under the hope that we shall be made better acquainted with the history of this humane establishment, and of those to whom we are so much obliged.

Humanitas.

The philanthropy of the people of Birmingham appears to have been exhaustless, and assumed an infinite variety of forms. It is one of the most gratifying traits in the character of the people. Misfortune and suffering have ever excited the most active sympathy and practical benevolence. Happily it is a characteristic which we have preserved to the present day. The year 1805 opened with the following proposal :—

SOCIETY FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR, BY INCITING THEM TO DILIGENCE AND ŒCONOMY.

January 28th, 1805.—From the almost total Want of Œconomy in the Poor many of them must remain destitute of even necessary Comforts, unless the higher Orders of the Community assist them by Advice as well as Bounty.

To promote this Object a few Persons formed themselves into a Society about a Twelvemonth since, and elected a Committee for the Purposes of visiting the Poor at their own Houses, of instructing them in the Principles of domestic Œconomy, of strongly pointing out to them the Necessity of Cleanliness, and of encouraging them to deposit small Sums of Money, weekly, in the Hands of the Committee, with the View of discharging their Debts, redeeming their Pledges, and Purchasing Fuel, Bedding, Clothing, &c., at the cheapest Rate.

From the Annual Report of the Proceedings of this Committee it appears that Deposits, amounting altogether to 337*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, have been made by 338 Persons, in Addition to which, one Fourth of that Sum has been paid in Premiums, agreeably to the Rules of the Society.

Although many Individuals and Families have experienced the Patronage of this Society, they form but a very small Proportion of the poor Inhabitants of Birmingham. Were the Funds of the Institution augmented, the solid Benefits of which it has already been productive, would be enjoyed to a far wider Extent; and the Donations and Subscriptions being now inadequate to the Relief of new applicants, the Public are respectfully invited to aid, by their Liberality, the Accomplishment of an Object so intimately connected with the best Interests of the Town, of the Neighbourhood, and of the Community at large.

Subscriptions and Donations will be received by Miss Deakin, Handsworth; Miss Shorthouse, Great Charles-street; and Mrs. Dickenson, Snow Hill.

In this year was formed the first Fire Insurance Company. As frequently happens, there were two attempts made contemporaneously. The first proposal was to form a society to be called the Birmingham Fire Office, with three hundred subscribers of £1,000 each. The other proposal was of a more popular kind, as will be seen by this report of the first meeting:—

Birmingham, February 9, 1805.—At a numerous and respectable Meeting of the Inhabitants of this Town, held at the Johnson's Head Inn; JOHN STARTIN, ESQ., being called to the Chair;

It was then unanimously Resolved—

I. That a Company be formed in the Town of Birmingham, upon the most liberal and extensive Plan, for Insuring of Property against Fire, and that the Capital be not less than Two Hundred Thousand Pounds, to be invested in the Funds.

II. That the same be called by Shares of One Hundred Pounds each.

III. That a General Meeting be called, requesting such Persons as are desirous of becoming Members of this Company to attend at Styles's Hotel, on Wednesday next, precisely at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, when Rules and Regulations for the future

Government of this Company will be laid before the Meeting; in the Interim, Gentlemen wishing to become Subscribers are requested to leave their Names at Mr. Bird's Office, Solicitor, Edmund-street.

IV. That the above Resolutions be inserted in the two next Birmingham Papers, and the Chairman be requested to sign the same on Behalf of the Meeting.

JOHN STARTIN, Chairman.

The Chairman having left the Chair, Resolved,—That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to him for his impartial Conduct. RICHARD BIRD.

At a meeting, held on February 13, it was resolved that a company be immediately formed, and that it be called the Birmingham Union Fire Office. Upwards of 1,500 shares had been subscribed for. A correspondent sent an interesting letter on the subject, which contains some valuable information on the state of the town. We therefore reproduce it :—

TO THE PRINTERS.

February 18, 1805.—Gentlemen,—Very erroneous opinions seem to have prevailed respecting the profits of Fire Insurance Offices, which, when divided among a large number of proprietors, are not worth anybody's notice; and it may afford some entertainment to your readers to see a few observations on the two insurance offices proposed to be established in Birmingham.

The insurable property in Birmingham may be about two millions, the insurance of which would amount to £2,000 per year, a considerable part of which would always go to London and other distant Insurance Offices; we may suppose, however, that property out of Birmingham, insured in Birmingham, would be more than equal to supply this deficiency, and that at the end of seven years there might be a clear annual profit, (after paying all losses by fire and other considerable expenses) of £2,000, which might admit of an increase.

According to the plan of the Birmingham Fire Office, there are 200 shares of £1,000 each and £100 is to be advanced on each share, and laid out in the Government Funds. Suppose, then, the clear annual profits, after the end of seven years, to be £2,000 and there had been no other similar institution in the town, the profits on each share would be £10 exclusive of interest.

According to the plan of the Birmingham Union Fire Office, there are 2,000 shares of £100 each, and £25 is to be advanced on each share, and laid out in the Government Funds. Suppose, then, the clear annual profits, after the end of seven years, to be £2,000, and that there had been no other similar institution in this town, the profits on each share would be £1, exclusive of interest.

If the profits are to be divided between the two companies, and the dividends be but half the sums there specified, will it be worth any person's notice (even with the uncertain prospect of an increase) for such trifling dividends as £5 a share, to run the risk of being called upon for the capital subscribed of £1,000 for each share in the first concern, and for a dividend of 10s. to run the risk of being called upon for the capital subscribed of £100 for each share in the second concern, besides being liable to make good a proportionate share of the deficiencies of any partner? It is allowed these are not probabilities, but they are possibilities.

How far the circulating medium of this town and neighbourhood may be affected by withdrawing therefrom, and lodging in the public funds, such large sums as the capitals of both Companies will amount to, deserves serious consideration.

I am, Gentlemen, yours, &c.,

A. B.

Competition is said to be a sign of health and strength, and there were now two schemes for the establishment of Insurance Societies before the public. It certainly proved beneficial to the *Gazette;* advertisements of a wonderful length appeared in its pages, and on February 25 we read once more an excuse for not inserting them :—

The Resolutions of the two Birmingham Insurance Offices are omitted this week for want of room. Our advertising friends are respectfully requested to send long advertisements more early in the week.

The antagonism was, however, soon removed; for, at a meeting of the subscribers to the Birmingham Union Fire Office, held on March 6, "a proposition for an union with the Birmingham Fire Office was adopted." The amalgamated society opened its offices this month. The office was in Union Street, which, says a contemporary writer, "for chasteness of design is equal to any other building in the town."

In May the town was delighted by the presence of a Royal visitor :—

May 20, 1805.—His Royal Highness Prince William of Gloucester honoured this town with a visit last week. So soon as it was known on Monday afternoon that the Prince intended to stop here on his road to Liverpool, every arrangement was made, that the short period would allow, to express that loyal respect and attention which the inhabitants of this place are always disposed to manifest to every branch of the Royal House of Brunswick. On Tuesday morning, the Loyal Birmingham Volunteers, preceded by a party of the Royal Dragoons from our Barracks, marched to Camp Hill, where they were drawn up in line to receive his Royal Highness with military honours; the Prince passed by them about one o'clock, and was escorted to Styles's Hotel by the Royal Dragoons, where the Magistrates, the High Bailiff, and other gentlemen were assembled to receive him. Upon the return of the military, they paraded in New Street, and his Royal Highness being informed of the circumstance directly joined them, and walked uncovered along the whole line; he saluted the officers as he passed, and thanked them and the privates for their polite and marked attention, and observed, that he had never seen a finer body of soldiers. The Prince was afterwards conducted to view the Mint, and other objects of curiosity, at Mr. Boulton's, Soho; Mr. Eginton's exhibition of stained glass; and Mr. Clay's manufactory. On Wednesday morning, his Royal Highness proceeded to inspect other subjects of observation in the town, and visited the manufactories of Messrs. Woolley, Deakin, and Co.; Messrs. Simcox and Timmins, the Brass Works; Messrs. Richards's Toy shop, &c., &c. The Prince examined every place, machine process, and article, with the most minute and scientific attention. About three o'clock in the afternoon his Royal Highness left the town on his way to Liverpool.

The Prince conducted himself in the most easy, familiar, and condescending manner, and said he should with gratitude always bear in mind the regard and polite attention shewn to him by the gentlemen that conducted him through the town, and the loyalty and kindness testified to him by the whole of the inhabitants.

We have, on this occasion, to record the patriotism of the Loyal Birmingham Volunteers. It was late in the morning of Tuesday before it was determined to call out the Volunteers; however, when the drums beat to arms, the greatest part of the three Battalions assembled at head quarters in little more than an hour, fully armed and accoutred for the field, unknowing for what service they were so hastily called out, but full of ardent zeal for the cause for which they had associated, and indifferent in their choice whether to pay respect to the family of their Sovereign, or to fight the battles of their country.

A still greater honour was promised to Birmingham—no less than a visit from the king himself. It is hard for us to realise the complete popularity of George III. He was during his long reign the idol of nearly all his people. His kindness of heart, his domestic virtues, his familiarity with his people, his careful plodding industry, helped to make him popular. They were so English. Even his prejudices were the prejudices of the vast majority of his subjects, and only the more endeared him to their affections. He was so like them in almost all things that they could not help but love him, and call him the father of his people. It was now announced that the King was about to visit the loyal folk of Birmingham, and the most ardent hopes were excited —hopes which unfortunately were never to be realised.

ROYAL VISIT TO BIRMINGHAM.

June 3, 1805.—We are happy in being enabled to announce that the Inhabitants of this loyal town will soon be gratified with a sight of our highly revered Sovereign. In consequence of its having been lately represented that the Royal Family intended, in the course of the summer, to honour this Neighbourhood with their presence, the Trustees for conducting the erection of the Free Church in this town solicited his Majesty that he would be graciously pleased to lay the first stone. The King, with that regard which he always manifests to whatever appertains to the cause of religious worship, has condescended to grant the request, which was signified to the High Bailiff on Friday, in the following letter from the Earl of Dartmouth :—

"Windsor, May 27, 1805.

"Sir,—I had, yesterday, the honour to lay before his Majesty the contents of your letter to me, dated May 23rd, and I have received the Royal command to inform you that his Majesty is gracious pleased to comply with your request, and that he will lay the first stone of the intended Free Church in Birmingham.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient Servant,

"DARTMOUTH."

The following statement of the guardians gives us the cost of the poor in 1804–5 :—

Birmingham Public Office, June 26, 1805.—At a Quarterly Meeting of the Guardians and Overseers of the Poor, a statement of the Receipts and Expenditure of the last Year, from Easter, 1804, to Easter, 1805, was exhibited, wherein it appeared that sixteen Levies had produced 19,951*l.* 1*s.* 6½*d.*, and that after having relieved the Out-poor, paid the necessary Expenses of the Poor and the Asylum, there remained a Balance of 629*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.* in Hand, the particular Items of which Statement may be seen by applying at the Clerk's Office.

Average Number of Out-poor Cases relieved per week . .	2246
Average Number of Poor in the House	284
Average Number of Children in the Asylum	211
	2741

By Order of the Meeting,
J. Welch, Cashier.

The alternate hopes and fears which the proposed visit of the King produced will be best gathered by an extract or two. On July 1 we read :—

Their Majesties have not given up (as some of the London and provincial paper most erroneously state) the excursion to the Midland Counties. We are enabled, from the best authority, to assert, that very soon after the prorogation of Parliament, the King will visit this town to lay the first stone of the intended Free Church, and from the present arrangements, that highly interesting and important ceremony will take place in the course of a fortnight, or three weeks. Momentous state affairs keeping Parliament assembled so far in the summer may probably prevent his Majesty from residing with his loyal people, the inhabitants of this place, so long as it was first intended. Medals to commemorate the erection of the Free Church are executing by that ingenious artist, Mr. Webb. The Trustees will present their Majesties with impressions upon gold.

Next week the hope is given up, for in the interval the King's illness had been announced :—

His Majesty.

July 8, 1805.—At a moment when, in common with all ranks of people in this town and neighbourhood, we congratulated ourselves on the happy prospect of speedily seeing the King, a much-lamented circumstance has occurred, which will entirely prevent, for the present, the pleasure we expected from so august a visit. His Majesty has lately been attacked with a slight complaint in his eyes, which rapidly increasing, a consultation of his physicians took place on Friday se'nnight; after which, Mr. Phipps, the oculist, communicated both to the King himself, and to the Queen and Family, the afflicting intelligence that a cataract was formed in one eye, and that there were the most unequivocal symptoms of its extending to the other. His Majesty received the information with a fortitude the most exemplary. He said that the deprivation of sight was an affliction which he had long dreaded, and from which he had most fervently prayed to be

relieved. But if doomed to endure the calamity, he would show the resignation which was the duty of a Christian; and if he was to undergo an operation, he trusted he should display the firmness of a man. His Majesty has been earnestly advised not to expose himself to fatigue or to sudden changes; therefore the tour of the Royal Family to the Midland Counties is given up for this season. On Saturday the High Bailiff received the following letter from the Earl of Dartmouth.

"Sandwell, July 6, 1805.

"Sir,—I have this day received a letter from Lord Hawkesbury, to communicate to me (by His Majesty's command) that in consequence of the complaint in his eyes, His Majesty has judged it most prudent to defer his projected visit to this neighbourhood till another year; and likewise to transmit to me His Majesty's pleasure that I should lay the first stone of the new Church at Birmingham in his name. I beg leave to express the satisfaction I shall have in obeying His Majesty's commands upon this occasion, and my readiness to attend for that purpose on any day that may be judged most convenient. I have it further in command to request that you will adopt the proper means to make known His Majesty's concern at the necessity he is under of not being present at that ceremony, and his hopes of being able to visit the town of Birmingham on some other occasion.

"I am, Sir, Your faithful and obedient Servant.

"DARTMOUTH.

"To the High Bailiff of Birmingham."

The King being unable to come, Lord Dartmouth had the honour of laying the corner stone of our first Free Church, and of the third church in Birmingham; St. Mary's, St. Paul's, St. Bartholomew's, and St. James's being chapels. The ceremony was performed on Monday, July 22, and was thus described :—

FOUNDING OF CHRIST CHURCH.

July 29, 1805.—On Monday the Earl of Dartmouth laid the foundation stone of the Free Church erecting in this town. His Lordship was attended by the Bishop of the Diocese, the Earl of Aylesford, the Earl of Warwick, the Dean of Windsor, the Members of the County, Joseph Scott, Esq., M.P. for Worcester, Charles Mills, Esq., M.P. for Warwick, H. Legge, Esq., the Magistrates and Clergy of the town, the Trustees of the Church, and the High and Low Bailiff. The Earl of Dartmouth, in laying the stone, made use of the following words :—*I lay this stone in the name and by command of our Most Gracious Sovereign.*" A guinea, half-a-guinea, and the other coins of the last impressions of the present reign, were deposited in a chamber cut in the stone, and covered with a brass plate bearing the following inscription :—"The first stone of Christ Church was laid the twenty-second day of July, 1805, by command of his Most Gracious Majesty George the Third, the pillar, guardian, and ornament of the Christian Faith, in the 68th year of his age, and the 45th of his reign.—RICHARD PRATCHETT, High Bailiff."

After the ceremony was finished, his Lordship, with the nobility, gentry, and clergy that attended him, proceeded to Styles's Royal Hotel, where they were joined by a large party of gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, and partook of an excellent

dinner. Afterwards a number of appropriate toasts were drank, and the evening concluded with the utmost hilarity and good humour. The second troop of the Warwickshire Yeomanry, and the three battalions of the Loyal Birmingham Volunteers, attended upon the occasion, and the greatest good order prevailed. The Earl of Dartmouth presented the non-commissioned officers and privates of the Loyal Birmingham Volunteers with a sum of money to regale themselves.

In the following week it was announced that the King had "most graciously given a donation of a thousand pounds towards the erection of the Free Church." The next paragraph records an event of local importance :—

NEW PUBLIC OFFICE AND PRISON.

September 23, 1805.—On Wednesday morning, the first stone of the various offices intended for the convenience of the Magistrates, the accommodation of the town, and the more tranquil and private conveyance of prisoners, was laid by the High Bailiff, and this necessary and important undertaking was honoured by the presence of the Free Masons in their way to St. Martin's Church. The Committee for erecting the edifices, by invitation of the High Bailiff, partook of a sociable entertainment at Mr. Freeth's Tavern in Bell Street.

This useful and necessary work was executed in a manner that must have delighted the inhabitants. We can fancy the pleasure with which the ratepayers read the following statement :—

October 28, 1805.—We are happy to announce that such prudent arrangements have been made by the Guardians and Overseers of this town, that the expences incurred in erecting the New Public Office and Prison, in Moor-street, *will be defrayed without the burden of any additional levies being laid upon the inhabitants for that purpose.*

Several famous victories enriched the British annals this year—the greatest and most glorious being the battle of Trafalgar, won on October 21. A Day of General Thanksgiving was appointed for Thursday, December 5. The following quotations show in what manner Birmingham kept the great day :—

Dec. 9, 1805.—Thursday being the day appointed for a General Thanksgiving for the splendid victories with which Providence has been pleased to bless the British arms, it was celebrated in all the churches and chapels with religious adoration, and in every part of the town with due decorum.

There was, on this great occasion, no distinction of sects or parties; the impression was deep, solemn, and universal. All the places of divine worship were well attended, and the contributions made for the relief of our defenders who bled, and of the relatives of those who fell in the late glorious actions, formed an offering worthy to be laid upon the altars of Piety, Gratitude, and Humanity. The following collections in aid of the Patriotic Fund have already come to our knowledge, and several others are yet to be announced :—

	£	s.	d.
St. Martin's Church	37	7	0
St. Philip's ditto	85	11	0½
St. Bartholomew's Chapel	6	10	6
St. Mary's ditto	90	3	11
St. Paul's ditto	30	3	0
St. John's ditto, Deritend.	17	3	0
Handsworth Church 27 18 8¾			
A fine imposed by a Magistrate on a runaway Apprentice from Soho Manufactory 5 11 0—	33	9	8¾
Moseley Chapel	12	7	0½
Old Meeting House	18	2	2½
New Meeting House	31	0	4
Union Chapel, Livery-street	20	2	8½
King-street Chapel	16	0	0
Bartholomew-street ditto	5	0	0
Bond-street ditto	5	0	0
Mosely-street ditto, Deritend	2	2	0
Paradise-street ditto	2	7	0
Lady Well ditto	1	13	4
The Catholic Chapel	10	4	6¾
The Jews' Synyagogue	3	3	0

Collections were also made in the Methodist Chapels, to the amount of 17*l.* 18*s.*, for the above benevolent purpose, which has been transmitted to London to be presented to the Committee, together with other sums subscribed in the chapels belonging to this religious persuasion throughout the United Kingdom.

Patriotic Fund.

December 16, 1805.—The High Bailiff of this Town has received the following letter, acknowledging the receipt of the sums collected at the various places of worship, as stated last week.

"Lloyd's, December 10, 1805.

"Sir,—Your noble remittance of 409*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* is received, and the particulars, as per newspapers, shall go to account for publication, with the other collections for the fund, in which business the Committee is now occupied.

"I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

"J. Welsford, Sec.

"To Wm. Smith, Esq., High Bailiff, Birmingham."

Since which the following sums have been paid into his hands, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
From Ashted Chapel	10	0	0
Old Meeting House.	18	2	6
Carr's Lane and Cannon Street Societies	25	4	0
Newhall Street Meeting	2	0	0
Another Meeting House in Newhall Street	1	11	10
Aston Church.	14	1	7
Yardley Church	4	4	0
Smethwick Chapel	13	0	0

Captain Osborne's Company of L.B.V. one day's pay :—

Three Sergeants	£0	4	6
Three Corporals	0	3	6
Two Drummers	0	2	4
Fifty-seven Privates	2	17	0
Captain Osborne	1	1	0
		4 8	4

The above sums, with what has been remitted, make the collections amount to 501*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*

On January 23, 1806, at the age of 47, died the great Minister, William Pitt. He was laid in Westminster Abbey in the same grave as his still greater father Lord Chatham, on February 22. Birmingham shared in the sorrow of that day, and mourned the loss of the splendid statesman :—

February 24th, 1806.—Saturday being the day fixed upon for the public funeral of the late Prime Minister of this Country, the same was observed in this town by the tolling of the large bell of the churches throughout the day, and at intervals, the xc., or funeral psalm tune, was solemnly struck upon the bells of St. Martin's and St. Philip's, as a mark of respect to the manes of an illustrious character.

Government proposed to levy a tax on iron. The manufacturers of this town were in action at once, and it will be seen by the following quotations that their energy and perseverance were at last rewarded with success :—

Tax on Iron.

April 14th, 1806.—On Friday, a numerous and most respectable Meeting of Merchants and Manufacturers, convened by the High Bailiff, was held at Dunn's Hotel, and Swan Inn, in this town, to take into consideration the intended duty of 2*l.* per ton upon Pig Iron. The subject was ably discussed, and its impolicy and ruinous consequences to the iron trade were most clearly pointed out. A deputation was chosen to represent to Lord Henry Petty the ill effects of such a measure; and several pointed resolutions, stating the opinion of the meeting upon the subject, were unanimously adopted. Similar meetings have been held in many other places; and a town's meeting is to take place upon the same business this day at Walsall.

April 28, 1806.—It would have given us much satisfaction to have informed our readers that the reasons submitted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pointing out the impolicy of the proposed tax of 40s. per ton on pig iron, with the ruinous consequences which were likely to attend should the tax be enforced, had induced him to abandon it altogether, but this does not appear to be the case at present.

Tax on Iron.

May 12, 1806.—A most interesting debate upon this subject took place in the House of Commons on Friday. From the small majority obtained by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in favour of the commitment of the Bill, we trust it will this day be given up, as many of the members who voted for its going to a Committee were averse to

the tax in its present form, but wished to have an opportunity to examine whether amendments might not be framed so as to meet the wishes of those concerned in the iron trade. The speech of Mr. Mordaunt, one of the Members for the County, wherein he forcibly depicted the ruinous consequences likely to ensue to the hardware trade of this country if the bill passed into a law, made a deep impression upon the House, and the Hon. Member was highly complimented by Mr. Fox and Mr. Wilberforce upon his eloquent language. Great praise is due to the gentlemen deputed upon the business in London, for their unwearied exertions.

Tax on Pig Iron.

May 19, 1806.—We have the pleasure to announce that Lord Henry Petty, in a Committee of Ways and Means in the House of Commons, on Tuesday, moved, that the farther consideration of the Bill for a Duty on Pig Iron be postponed from Thursday to that day se'nnight. This he said he was induced to do, that he might, in the mean time, have an opportunity of proposing some other tax in its room, to the consideration of the House. We congratulate our townsmen upon the abandonment of a tax that would have been a serious grievance to the inhabitants of this place and neighbourhood; and we have the gratification also to announce that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, throughout the whole of the enquiry into the iron trade, behaved with the greatest liberality and candour, and was desirous not to press a measure that would so materially injure the commercial interests of the country. His Lordship listened with attention to the arguments urged by the deputies from this place, upon the impossibility of fixing a sufficient drawback that would answer the purposes of the exportation of hardware goods; and the ill consequences likely to ensue from the effects of the tax upon the manufacturers of this town and neighbourhood, made a deep impression upon the mind of his Lordship. To the gentlemen deputed upon this important business the town cannot be too grateful for their unwearied and arduous exertions.

May 26, 1806.—On Wednesday, a town's meeting was held at Dunn's Swan Inn and Hotel, in this town, to receive the report of the gentlemen deputed from hence to oppose the tax on pig iron. The report, which conveyed information of the most important tendency to the advantage of this place and neighbourhood, was received with the warmest interest and approbation. . . . It is in agitation to print the various papers and calculations made use of by the deputation, which so fully convinced Lord Henry Petty of the impolicy of taxing iron, and which may be of importance to have recourse to, lest at some future period another Chancellor of the Exchequer should again introduce into the House of Commons so obnoxious a measure. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has brought into the House of Commons a substitute for the proposed tax on pig iron.

We have previously given an anecdote illustrative of Dr. Croft,* the well-known and able Lecturer at St. Martin's Church, and of his feelings towards Dissenters. On June 23, 1806, the following letter from his pen was published in the *Gazette*:—

Baptism of the Children of Dissenters in the Church.

To the Printers.—Gentlemen,—I have been taught to believe, that not only the Clergy of the Church of England, but also the dissenting Ministers themselves, admit the glaring impropriety of presenting the children of Dissenters for Baptism in the Church. How

* Vol. 1, p. 499.

preposterous were it to give thanks that they are incorporated into a Church of which they are not to be members, to require their attendance upon Sermons which they will not hear, their repetition of a Catechism which they will not learn, and their introduction to a Bishop whose office they will disparage, and whose imposition of hands they will be taught to disregard!

What the Religious Opinions of the Sponsors may be is of no moment. They would be called upon to promise what would never be performed. It is this promise which discriminates the office of Baptism from all others whatsoever, unless it can be proved that the matrimonial engagement is binding on none but members of the Church.

The charge of uncharitableness, bigotry, and intolerance, I spurn with honest indignation. I only wish that all Teachers were men of letters, and at the age of discretion. The right of private judgment must ever be liable to abuse, especially in men of inferior education. Let none, however, in claiming the privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of their own consciences presume to tyrannise over the conscience of others, much less endeavour to make us the dupes of gross prevarication.

I am, Gentlemen, yours, &c.,

G. Croft.

We have now to record an attempt at murder committed in this town, which is memorable from the fact that it led to the only execution with which our annals are sullied. Would we could add that it was our only murder!

Daring Attempt at Murder.

July 14, 1806.—On Tuesday, night about Twelve o'clock, Robert Twyford, a watchman stationed upon Snow Hill and its environs, being informed that some suspicious characters were lurking about his round, made for the quarter he was directed to, and, upon questioning one of the villains of the object of his being out at that time, he received a pistol shot in his breast, and the ruffian immediately decamped. The unfortunate man was directly taken to the Hospital, where he remains with some hopes of recovery. The ball, which has been extracted by Mr. G. Freer, entered at his left breast, passed through the lungs, right blade-bone, and was lodged in the fleshy part of his shoulder. The Constables have very laudably offered a reward of fifty pounds for the apprehension of the daring villain, and the Commissioners of the Birmingham Streets Acts one hundred guineas more.

The criminal was discovered. His name was Philip Matsell; he was tried at the Warwick Summer Assize, found guilty, and condemned to be hanged on the spot where he shot Twyford. The following is the contemporary report of our one execution:—

Execution of Matsell.

August 25, 1806.—We have this week the melancholy task of recording a rare, and, within our memory, an unprecedented transaction. The man found guilty of shooting at and wounding Robert Twyford, the watchman, was condemned to be executed in this town, and on Friday the dreadful sentence of the law was put in force. About half-past eight o'clock in the morning, Mr. Tatnall, the keeper of the county gaol, set out of

Warwick with the criminal, accompanied by the Under Sheriff, and escorted by the proper officers and the javelin men. At Knowle they halted, and Matsell took something to eat and a few glasses of wine. When the malefactor and the cavalcade arrived within two miles of this town, they were met by the Constables, Headborough, and Police Officers of this town, accompanied by a troop of dragoons from the Barracks. Here Matsell again partook of refreshment, was pinioned, and removed from a coach into a cart covered with black cloth, wherein was his coffin, and he was fixed upon a board across the carriage. Soon after eleven o'clock the solemn procession, accompanied by a great number of spectators, moved slowly on towards the town, and afterwards passed through Deritend, Digbeth, High Street, Bull Street, and arrived in Snow Hill, the place of execution, about half-past twelve. An elevated scaffold had been erected in the morning, in that part of Snow Hill where the road is joined by the ends of Great Charles Street and Bath Street, which Matsell ascended, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Langhame, of Warwick, who prayed by him, and took every pains to impress upon the mind of the convict the necessity of repentance. About twenty minutes after one the executioner proceeded to perform his office, by fastening the fatal cord around his neck, and binding a handkerchief over his eyes; and then being asked to give the signal when he was ready, the criminal immediately exclaimed, "Here goes!" at the same time endeavoured to throw up a pocket handkerchief he held in his hand into the air, and was immediately launched into eternity, amidst the lamentation and in the sight of forty thousand spectators. After hanging the usual time the body was cut down, put into the coffin, and conveyed to the dungeon, and, in the course of the night, was conveyed to St. Philip's Churchyard. Matsell was only thirty years of age, was born at Yarmouth, and apprenticed to a surgeon in London, from whom, it is said, he ran away and went to sea when only fifteen.

It afforded us the greatest satisfaction to notice the behaviour of the immense concourse of spectators on this awful occasion; it was in every respect such as could be wished, and reflects the highest credit upon the disposition of the inhabitants of this large and populous town. The most profound silence prevailed, and every person seemed to retire under an impression which, we trust, will long be remembered. Indeed we cannot but hope that the object of the Judge, in directing the sentence of the law to be executed here, will be fully answered. Happy should we have been could we have informed our readers that the malefactor discovered signs of deep repentance and contrition for his various and flagrant offences—but here truth compels us to be silent; we were unable to procure any satisfactory information on this subject, from the quarter where alone it could have been obtained. He stands now before a more awful tribunal, and it becomes us rather to draw a veil over the scene than assume an office which belongs only to that Judge at whose bar we must all, sooner or later, appear. Yet, whilst we would abstain from reflection upon the dead, we cannot withhold from the rising generation the cautions which necessarily present themselves on this solemn event. We feel it a duty to warn them against the smallest deviations from the path of honesty and duty; to remind them how one sin leads on to another, till the mind, which was before shocked at the very name, becomes so hardened and insensible as to be capable of committing the most horrid and unnatural crimes, without remorse or compunction, and till it becomes necessary, for the security of society, that they should finish their career by an ignominious and shameful death.

The next extract gives a description of the

NEW PRISON AND PUBLIC OFFICE.

September 29, 1806.—This day possession is to be taken of our new-built Prison-House and Prison, situated in Moor Street, by Mr. Payn, the Keeper, the first stone of which was laid by Mr. Richard Pratchett, the High Bailiff for the time being, September 18, 1805. The rapidity with which this public fabric has been erected, reflects the greatest credit on the Committee who conducted the undertaking; and the greatest praise is due to Mr. William Hollins, the architect and mason, and Mr. Samuel Copeland, the builder and surveyor, for their punctuality and workmanlike conduct. The internal arrangements of the prison are ordered with such judgment and convenience, as to draw forth the highest encomiums from that philanthropist, Mr. Neal, (the Howard of the present day,) and several other eminent characters. The cells are roomy and well ventilated: the court-yard is of ample dimensions, well flagged, and in all the apartments and offices the health and cleanliness of the unfortunate prisoners that may become inhabitants have been studied with the most peculiar care and attention. A very proper and judicious arrangement is also observed in the erection of this prison—the male and female prisoners are kept entirely apart.

The exterior of the Public Office is nearly completed, and, if we may judge of the whole from what is discernible in the front, the architect has displayed no small portion of judgment and taste. The style of the building is betwixt the Greek and Roman; the Capitals, of the graceful Ionic order, bear the semblance of originality. On an imperfect building criticism must be silent; but we cannot help declaring that the elegance of the structure would grace the first situation in the town; and the time may come when this public edifice will be a terminating object to a spacious street.

On April 17, 1807, a town's meeting was held, at which an address to the King was adopted expressive of the grateful sense which the inhabitants entertained of his "vigilant and paternal attention to the preservation of a happy constitution as by law established, and to assure his Majesty of their firm determination to support him in the just and undiminished exercise of his prerogative." The cause of this display of loyalty was the introduction into Parliament of a bill by Lord Howick, to enable Roman Catholics to hold commissions in the army and navy. The King's opposition to this wise proposal caused him to dismiss his Ministers. In this, as in almost all his illiberal and narrow conduct, the King, with the exception of a small minority, had the nation with him. The address sent from this town shows how Birmingham felt on the subject :—

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

May 4, 1807.—Most Gracious Sovereign,—We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Gentry, Clergy, Merchants, Manufacturers, and other Inhabitants of the town and vicinity of Birmingham, beg leave to approach your throne with sentiments of the most profound attachment and veneration for your Majesty's person and government.

Your faithful subjects, Sire, can never forget the dignified and parental Sentiments with which your illustrious reign commenced; Sentiments which, for nearly half a century, and under circumstances of unexampled difficulty and peril, have continued so eminently to distinguish it.

We have seen with admiration the successive steps of your Majesty's eventful reign, marked by an inviolable adherence to those sacred principles which form the basis of our envied Constitution, and placed your illustrious House on the throne. Deeply impressed by a consciousness of the invaluable blessings we enjoy under your Majesty's mild and paternal government, we feel it an imperious duty, at this momentous crisis, to lay before your august throne the tribute of our gratitude, and to express the high sense we entertain of your Majesty's vigilant and patriotic attention to the preservation of our glorious Constitution as by law established. Zealous, in common with all your Majesty's faithful subjects, for the integrity and preservation of that matchless system which has hitherto proved the impregnable bulwark of British freedom, permit us to assure your Majesty of our unalterable determination to support your throne in the just and undiminished exercise of your Royal prerogative. We confide, under God, in your Majesty's wisdom and firmness; and we earnestly pray that that Almighty Providence, in whose governance are the hearts of Kings, and who has preserved to us a life of such inestimable value, will, in mercy to these realms, prolong the number of your Majesty's days; and amidst the awful convulsions and downfal of surrounding nations, secure to your Majesty the heartfelt satisfaction of transmitting to posterity, unimpaired, the British Constitution.

Signed in the name and at the request of the meeting,

GEORGE SIMCOX, Chairman.

The Address was taken to London by the High Bailiff and the Rev. C. Curtis in order to present the same to his Majesty; but, as his Majesty does not receive addresses at his private levees, the address was left with the Secretary of State, and presented by him to his Majesty.

We need not be surprised that the King's next birthday was celebrated even with more than ordinary fervour—at least it was so here :—

June 8th, 1807.—The birthday of our revered and venerable Sovereign was celebrated, on Thursday, by the inhabitants of this town with the most ardent loyalty. The three battalions of the Loyal Birmingham Volunteers, cloathed in new regimentals, paraded in the morning in New-street, and afterwards marched to their ground on Birmingham Heath, where they fired three volleys in honour of the day. The officers, with many other respectable gentlemen of the town, dined at the Shakespear Tavern; and the privates were presented by the Volunteer Committee with one shilling each, to regale themselves upon this happy festival.

In October the new Public Office was opened for the transaction of business.

October 19th, 1807.—The NEW PUBLIC OFFICE, in this town, being finished, the Magistrates will attend there this day for the first time to transact business. This very handsome edifice, which is not excelled by any building for a similar purpose in the kingdom, has been erected from the plans of Mr. William Hollins, the ingenious architect of this town, and the taste he has exhibited will be a lasting testimony of his

merit. Mr. Copland is the builder, to whom great praise is due for his punctual and assiduous attention, and for the great skill and judgment he has displayed in the choice of materials and workmanship. Although the New Public Office and Prison has cost a larger sum in erecting than it was at first expected, yet the town has liberally supplied the building committee with funds fully adequate to finish the whole in a manner highly ornamental to the place.

We must not omit the following obituary notice of a genuine Birmingham worthy, whose spirit of active benevolence and large-hearted charity survives in the living inheritor of his name :—

December 28, 1807.—Died, yesterday morning, Sampson Lloyd, banker, of this town, in his 80th year. The death of this worthy man is universally lamented. His long life has been passed with honour and integrity, and as he was religiously attached to the cause of Christianity, he endeavoured to act up to its divine precepts.

The next extract, though brief, brings before us a vivid picture of the tyranny then exercised towards working men. The combination laws of the time were as disgraceful as the criminal laws. Reform in law is slow and tedious work, and there is much yet to be done before we can say that law and equity are one. But to the old shoemakers :—

July 4, 1808.—The master boot and shoe makers in other large towns, as well as this, are using very spirited measures for suppressing unlawful combinations among the journeymen ; guarding the well-disposed against the principles of the idle and abandoned ; and holding out encouragement to such as have been misled, and are disposed to save themselves and families from ruin, by returning again to their duty.

The first case at the Public Office which we find reported is one arising out of these combination laws. It will be seen by this report how the magistrates dealt with the combiners :—

August 1, 1808.—At the Public Office, on Thursday last, William Brown and William Knight, two journeymen boot and shoe makers, were convicted before Theodore Price and George Simcox, Esquires, for having, with others, unlawfully combined together to prevent an unemployed journeyman of the same trade working for Mr. Edwards, a master boot and shoe maker, of this town, and sentenced to two months' imprisonment in the house of correction at Warwick, there to be kept to hard labour. The Magistrates, in passing sentence, most strongly reprobated the conduct of these men, and pointing out the mischievous and dangerous consequences that must necessarily result to individuals guilty of such an offence : an offence the more aggravated from its having been satisfactorily proved before them that, although the defendants sought by their conduct to obtain an advance of wages, they could easily earn, at the present prices paid by the masters, from five to seven shillings per day ; and expressed that they should not only feel it their inclination, but their bounden duty which they owed to the public, to punish to the utmost extent of the law all persons who should be brought before them and convicted of similar offences.

An anonymous advertisement appeared in the newspapers, announcing that an application would be made to Parliament for an act to establish water works in the town. The principal inhabitants at once took action in the matter. A meeting was held, and the project was opposed—and apparently on very sufficient grounds. The following is the report of the meeting :—

PUBLIC OFFICE, BIRMINGHAM.

October 10, 1808.—At a numerous Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Birmingham, summoned by the High Bailiff, by public advertisment, in consequence of an anonymous Advertisement having appeared in the Birmingham Papers, purporting "that an application will be made to Parliament in the ensuing Sessions, for leave to bring in a bill for making and maintaining Water Works, for supplying the Inhabitants of the Town of Birmingham with Water for culinary and domestic Purposes, and for extinguishing Accidents by Fire;"

The High Bailiff in the Chair;

Resolved unanimously,—That the Question of the Expediency or Necessity of Water Works in the Town of Birmingham, ought to be determined solely and exclusively by the Inhabitants.

That sufficient Information has not been laid before this Meeting to determine the expediency of establishing Water Works in the Town of Birmingham.

That should any Attempt be made without the Concurrence of the Town to introduce a Bill into Parliament grounded upon the above-noticed Advertisement, it is the Duty of the Town to oppose it by every Exertion in their Power.

Resolved unanimously,—That a Committee be appointed to conduct such Opposition, if requisite, and that they be also authorised to ascertain the Expediency of erecting Water Works in the Town of Birmingham.

That the following Gentlemen constitute the Committee, with Power to add any other Names they may think proper :—

The High and Low Bailiffs for the Time being	Messrs. Thomas Blood
William Villers, Esq.	" Thomas Beilby
William Hicks, Esq.	" James Osborne
Theodore Price, Esq.	" Thomas Lee
George Simcox, Esq.	" Thomas Richards
John Taylor, Esq.	" Charles Lloyd
Matthew Boulton, Esq.	" Henry Perkins
James Watt, Esq.	" Thomas Small
Dr. Croft	" William Whitmore
Dr. Gilby	" James Alston
Messrs. M. R. Boulton	" James Woolley
" James Watt, jun.	" Timothy Smith
" Richard Pratchett	" Mark Saunders
" Samuel Baker	" Isaac Spooner, jun.
	" Thomas Attwood

Messrs. Samuel Lloyd	Messrs. John Phillips
" John Cope	" John Heely
" John Blount	" Theophilus Richards
" George Boone	" John Lawrence
" James Lloyd	" Edward Bower

Resolved unanimously.—That Messrs. Barker and Unett be appointed the Solicitors.

That a Subscription be immediately entered into to accomplish the above Objects, the Management and Disposal of which shall be vested in the Committee.

That Messrs. Spooner and Attwoods be appointed Treasurers.

That the above Resolutions be inserted in the Birmingham Papers.

That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the High Bailiff for his able and impartial Conduct in the Chair.

An attempt was also made this year, by a comparatively few persons, to remove the Corn Market from the Bull Ring to the Old Square. The advertisement announcing this proposed change was immediately followed by the official prohibition :—

CORN MARKET.

October 10, 1808.—An Advertisment having appeared in the Birmingham Paper of the 3rd of October instant, stating that the Brewers, Millers, Maltsters, Farmers, and others interested in the Corn Trade, whose Names are thereunto annexed, would meet in the Square, in Birmingham, on Thursday, the 6th of October, and every Thursday following, at Twelve o'Clock at Noon, for the Purpose of buying and selling Grain. Notice is hereby given that such Advertisment was inserted without the authority of the High Bailiff of the Town of Birmingham, and that all Persons meeting in the Square for the Purpose therein specified will be proceeded against according to Law.

HENRY PERKINS, High Bailiff.

The inhabitants of the Square also held a meeting, and protested against the proposal :—

October, 10, 1808.—At a Meeting of the Proprietors and Inhabitants of Houses in the Square and the Neighbourhood thereof, on Saturday, the 8th of October instant, to take into Consideration the Propriety of opposing the Removal of the Corn Market ; Mr. Phillips in the Chair ;

An Advertisement having appeared in the Birmingham Paper of the 3rd of October instant, stating "that the Brewers, Millers, Maltsters, Farmers, and others interested in the Corn Trade, whose Names are thereto annexed, would meet in the Square, in Birmingham, on Thursday, the 6th Day of October, and every Thursday following, at Twelve o'Clock at Noon, for the Purpose of buying and selling Grain :" and this Meeting having taken the same into Consideration, cannot help expressing their Surprise at the Attempt of any Individuals to remove the Corn Market from its present public and commodious Situation to such a retired Spot as the Square, especially when it is considered that the Town has expended a very large Sum of Money in rendering them every possible Accommodation, by taking down the Shambles and enlarging the present Market Place ; and this Meeting

being of Opinion that no Persons have a Right to hold or establish a Market in any other Place than where it has been held from Time immemorial ;

Resolved,—That if the Attempt to hold a Corn Market in the Square be persisted in, they will oppose it by every legal Means in their Power.

That a Subscription be immediately entered into for this Purpose.

That Mr. John Phillips, Mr. Robert Ward, Mr. Samuel Rogers, Mr. Vickers, Mr. Cresshull, and Mr. Unett, be appointed a Committee to carry the Intention of this Meeting into Effect (any three of whom shall be competent to act) ; and that Messrs. Barker and Unett be appointed Solicitors.

That these Resolutions be published in the Birmingham Newspapers.

Signed at the Request of the Meeting,

JOHN PHILLIPS, Chairman.

The change was, of course, not made, and the market continued to be held in the old place. The water works question was again agitating the public, and the overseers adopted the following very sensible mode of ascertaining the opinion of the inhabitants :—

October 24, 1808.—We are authorised to inform the public that the overseers, accompanied by the committee appointed by the town to determine the expediency of establishing Water Works in this place, will, in the course of a few days, wait upon the inhabitants to collect their sentiments upon this subject, when questions of the following purport will probably be proposed to them :—Whether you are well supplied with good water? Whether an additional supply of soft water will be desirable? What sum you will be willing to pay annually for a supply of good water, or for soft water?

The responses to these questions appear to have been satisfactory to the opponents of the bill, for on Febuary 10, 1809, the committee appointed to watch over the "interests of the town" published the following important report :—

WATER WORKS.

The Committee appointed by the Town's Meeting think it their Duty to state, that notwithstanding the Resolution unanimously passed by the Town at large, discountenancing the Establishment of Water Works, they have learnt that Mr. Dodd persists in his determination to apply to Parliament for Power to carry his plan into Effect, and that he has been endeavouring to obtain Signatures to a Petition in support of it. It is surely a Thing without Example that a Speculator should, in Opposition to the Sense of a Town's Meeting, unanimously expressed, persevere in a Scheme which *he has uniformly refused to explain, either to the Town at large or to the Committee appointed to investigate the Subject.* The Committee, wishing to give the fullest Publicity to the Proceedings which have taken Place upon this Subject, have subjoined a Detail of the Measures which have been pursued, and they rely upon the public Spirit of the Inhabitants to support their own Resolutions and Appointments. On the 12th day of September, 1808, the following Advertisement appeared in the Birmingham Paper :—

"Notice is hereby given, that Application is intended to be made to Parliament the ensuing Session, for leave to bring in a Bill for Making and Maintaining Water Works, for

supplying the Inhabitants of the Town of Birmingham with water for culinary and domestic purposes, and for extinguishing Accidents by Fire; which aforesaid Works will be constructed in the Parishes of St. Martin's and St. Philip's, in the County of Warwick."

In consequence of this Advertisement a requisition was addressed to the High Bailiff of the Town as follows :—

"To Henry Perkins, Esq., High Bailiff of the Town of Birmingham.

"An anonymous notice having appeared in the Birmingham Papers of Monday and Thursday last of an intended Application to Parliament for Leave to bring in a Bill for making and Maintaining Water Works for supplying the Town with Water;

We, the undersigned inhabitants of Birmingham, request you to call a Public Meeting for the Purpose of taking into consideration the Propriety of such an Application :

William Villers,	John Blount,	Thomas Beilby.
Richard Pratchett,	George Boone,	James Osborne
Samuel Baker,	James Lloyd,	Thomas Lee,
Samuel Lloyd,	Thomas Blood,	Thomas Richards."
John Cope,		

In Pursuance of such Requisition, the High Bailiff called a General Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town for the 4th of October, which Meeting was most numerously and respectably attended, and the following Resolutions were unanimously passed :—

The High Bailiff in the Chair ;

"Resolved unanimously,—

"That the Question of the Expediency or Necessity of Water Works, in the Town of Birmingham, ought to be determined solely and exclusively by the Inhabitants.

"That sufficient Information has not been laid before this Meeting to determine the Expediency of establishing Water Works in the Town of Birmingham.

"That should any Attempt be made without the Concurrence of the Town to introduce a Bill into Parliament grounded upon the above mentioned Advertisement, it is the Duty of the Town to oppose it by every Exertion in their Power.

"That a Committee be appointed to conduct such Opposition, if requisite ; and that they be also authorised to ascertain the Expediency of erecting Water Works in the Town of Birmingham.

"That the High and Low Bailiffs, and thirty-eight Gentlemen, then named, constitute the Committee, with Power to add any other Names they may think Proper."

The Committee met in Pursuance of their Appointment, and with a view the better to enable them to determine the Expediency of erecting Water Works in the Town, they deputed twelve Gentlemen, who, together with the Overseers of the Poor, were requested to enquire into the different districts of the Town, whether the Inhabitants were in general well supplied with good Water. They likewise instructed their Solicitors to ascertain in what Towns Water Works had been erected, and how far their situation differed from or corresponded with the Situation of this Town. They also applied to Mr. Dodd, to desire him to put the Committee in Possession of the Means he proposed to adopt, in order to enable them to judge how far his Scheme was likely to be beneficial or otherwise

to the Town, in case it should be eventually deemed expedient to establish Water Works; and whether it was his intention to persevere in his proposed Application to Parliament against the judgment of the Town.

Mr. Dodd, however, refused to shew his plans to the Committee, as he had formerly declined doing at the first Town's Meeting, at which he was present. The Committee having received the Reports of the different Gentlemen deputed to enquire of the Inhabitants in what manner the Town was supplied with water, passed the following Resolutions:—

"Resolved unanimously,—That it appears to this Meeting that the Result of the Investigation made throughout the Town is unfavourable to the Erection of Water Works."

Communications from several Individuals, relative to the Water Works established in different Towns having been read,

"Resolved unanimously,—That it appears to this Meeting, from such Communications, that the places which are now supplied with Water by Water Works, were before the erection of such Works very ill supplied with Water, which is not the case in this Town.

That it is the decided opinion of the Committee that the Erection of Water Works in this Town is wholly unnecessary, and would be productive of great Evil.

"That a general Meeting of the Inhabitants be called to receive the Report of this Committee, and that at such Meeting it be proposed to use every Means to oppose any Attempt to obtain an Act of Parliament for the erecting of Water Works."

In Pursuance of these Resolutions the High Bailiff called, by public Advertisement, another general Meeting of the Inhabitants, which was also very numerously and respectably attended: at which Meeting the following Resolutions were unanimously passed:—

The High Bailiff in the Chair.

"Resolved unanimously,—That the Erection of Water Works in the Town of Birmingham is wholly unnecessary and would be productive of great Evil.

"That the Committee, appointed at a Town's Meeting on the 4th of October last, be authorised to use every Exertion to counteract any Attempt to obtain an Act of Parliament for the Establishment of Water Works in the Town of Birmingham, any five of them competent to act; and particularly that they be desired to make immediate Application to the Members of the County, and all other Gentlemen in Parliament with whom they may have any Influence or Weight, to oppose any Bill which may be introduced into Parliament for the Erection of such Works."

At a subsequent Meeting of the Committee, held at the Public Office, January 9, 1809,

"It was unanimously Resolved,—That the Solicitors be directed to write to Mr. Dodd, informing him of the Result of the Town's Meeting of the 6th Instant, and that they take such Measures as to them may seem most proper to obtain the earliest Information of any Application to Parliament to bring in a Bill for the Purpose of erecting Water Works in this Town.

"By Directions of the Committee,

"Barker and Unett,

"Solicitors."

The opposition was successful, and on April 10 it was announced that Mr. Dodd's plan had been rejected by the Committee of the House of Commons, who found that his allegations could not be proved. "It is to be hoped," says the advertisement, signed by John Alston, High Bailiff, "that this repulse will be an admonition to all projectors and adventurers, never to obtrude any visionary scheme upon a body of People contrary to their approbation and consent." We shall see that it was no admonition at all; for in the following year the scheme was revived and the battle had to be fought over again.

The white metal button trade was an important branch of our industry at this time. The workmen employed in it were, however, sadly underpaid; and by the following petition appealed to the masters to raise their wages. The respectful, almost humble, tone of the appeal is in striking contrast with similar documents which have been published in our own time; and indicates a latent dread of the unjust combination laws :—

To the Masters in the White Metal Button Trade.

March 6, 1809.—Gentlemen,—We, the under-written Journeymen in the White Metal Button Trade, do, in Behalf of ourselves and all others in the said Trade in this Town, most humbly and earnestly address you, praying you seriously to take our Case into Consideration with Regard to the Prices which we at this Time receive for our Labour. We wish to represent to you the almost Impossibility of providing for our Families the Necessaries of Life, during the high price of Provisions, at the very low Rate we are now paid for our Work. We therefore have taken this Method of applying to you to redress our Grievances, as far as you may judge reasonable and proper, from the Statements we are willing to lay before you, by Raising the prices in the respective Branches in which we are employed; and whatever advances you may think proper to favour us with will be most thankfully received and gratefully acknowledged by your humble Servants,

Thomas Perks,	William Podmore,	John Richards,
James Cass,	Samuel Hodgetts,	John Slater,
John Isaacs,	Thomas Pardoe,	Wm. Veal,
T. Hemmings,	Thomas Darby,	Charles Hill,
Benjamin Linall,	James Jones,	Henry Gibbs,
Wm. Ashmore,	Henry Baker,	Thomas Pinsill,
Charles Upton,	John Bratt,	D. Bindley.

In March we learn that

A petition has been presented to the House of Commons, from the hatters, praying for a repeal of the hat duty, as it is not only found to be unproductive of the sum it was originally taken at, but is become too frequently a source of vexatious litigation.

The following terrible story of disappointed love and revenge is so far within the scope of this work, that Sir Stukely Shuckburgh was intimately connected with this town; and was for some time one of the representatives of the northern division of the country which included Birmingham.

April 3rd, 1809.—We discharge a most painful duty to our readers, in recording the very dreadful transaction which has involved the family of Sir Stukely Shuckburgh, Bart., of this county, and the family and relatives of Lieutenant Sharpe, of the Bedfordshire regiment of militia, in the deepest distress. Lieutenant Sharpe having paid his addresses to Miss Shuckburgh, and being disappointed in obtaining the object of his affections, formed the horrid determination of putting a period to his own and her existence, which he carried into effect on Sunday morning, the 26th ult., in the summer-house in the plantations of Shuckburgh Park.

On May 23, the first stone was laid of the Jew's Synagogue in Severn Street. The building is now a Masonic Hall, in which the brethern of the Athol Lodge hold their meetings. It will be seen from the following paragraph that, at the dinner given after the ceremony, our Hebrew friends set the laudable example of having ladies present :—

May 29, 1809.—On Tuesday last the first stone of the intended Synagogue, in Severn street, in this town, was laid by Mr. Mordecai Solomon, attended by Rabbi J. Phillips, the reader, and the whole congregations of Jews in this town, also many ladies and gentlemen of their persuasion from Coventry and other towns. We witnessed with pleasure the regularity of the procession to and from the ground, also the ceremony of laying the stone, which commenced with a suitable prayer, composed by Rabbi A. M. Dellison, Hebrew Teacher, of this town; after laying of the stone an oration was delivered by Mr. Dellison. The procession continued in regular order to the Rose Inn, where upwards of seventy ladies and gentlemen partook of a most sumptuous dinner; several loyal and appropriate toasts were drank, and concluded with an elegant ball. The company did not separate till early the next morning. The whole was conducted in a manner that reflects the highest honour on the manager of the festival.

The funds of the General Hospital were very low at this time, and the charity was in debt. Again a benevolent correspondent suggested that a collection should be made at all the churches and chapels in the county. He calculates that this would raise £3,000. It will be remarked that he explicitly advises that this should *not* be done annually; and under the circumstances this was probably wise advice. The number of our charities has so largely increased, that an annual collection is but the natural corollary of these frequently-repeated suggestions.

October 2, 1809.—To the Printers.—Gentlemen,—In common with many others of your readers, I feel real concern on being informed, by a statement of the accounts

respecting the Birmingham General Hospital, that the Fund of that excellent Institution is not only exhausted, but that the establishment is actually in debt. To restore it to that competency which every good man must wish it to possess, allow me (through the medium of your paper) to suggest to the Committee, who manage its affairs, the following expedient, which may be adopted without inconvenience, and accomplished with little expense:—Let a suitable appeal be made to the public by advertisement, requesting the Ministers of all denominations (throughout the county of Warwick and in those districts of the neighbouring counties which are benefited by the institution) to address their respective flocks on the subject, that collections may be made in their several Churches, Chapels, or Meeting-houses, and to transmit the sums so collected to the Treasurer. These I calculate will amount to not less than £3,000, and will consist of such free-will offerings as scarcely to be missed by those who bestow them. Perhaps it would not be advisable that these collections be made annually; and the public should explicitly be told that they will not; but only take place when a real exigency, like the present, renders them indispensable—an exigency which persons of every religious persuasion, will, no doubt, cheerfully contribute to remove; for the charitable institution that now feels it is of no particular sect; but, like Heaven's general dew, sheds its healing bounty equally on all whom sickness and human suffering lead to its gates.

The 25th of October was the anniversary of the king's accession; and, on Friday, September 29, a meeting was held to consider the best manner of celebrating the event. "The idea of an illumination on the occasion was introduced, and very properly negatived. Indeed, when it is considered that there are upwards of 12,000 inhabited houses in this town, and if only 6,000 of them were illuminated, it would, at five shillings each, cost £1,500! This sum, collected and forwarded for the future benefit of the poor, would be more grateful to the feelings of our good old King than to hear of the momentary blaze of an illumination."

On October 25, the following earnest appeal to the public was made by the two principal officers:—

The High and Low Bailiffs earnestly recall the attention of the inhabitants of Birmingham to the suggestion contained in the resolution passed at the Public Office on the 30th of last month, which is copied with the concurrence of the Magistrates. They beg leave respectfully to recommend to the proprietors of retail shops to keep them shut on the 25th instant.

"Resolved unanimously,—That the Clergy and Ministers of every denomination in the town of Birmingham, be respectfully requested to preach in their different churches, chapels, and other places of worship, on the 25th of October, 1809; and that collections be afterwards made, the amount of which shall be lodged in the hands of the High and Low Bailiffs, to be applied by a committee (to be hereafter appointed at a town's meeting) for the benefit of the poor. That it is the opinion of this meeting, that it would not be advisable to illuminate on the occasion, but that the inhabitants be respectfully and earnestly recommended to contribute, at least what they would have so expended, in aid of the above charitable fund."

Lord Dudley, with his accustomed beneficence, has subscribed £25 in aid of the proposed collection for the benefit of the poor on Wednesday next; and we hear that the High and Low Bailiffs, upon the recommendation of our worthy Magistrates, have already applied part of the charitable fund in liberating all the prisoners confined for debt in the Court of Requests.

The anniversary was kept in accordance with the resolution of the Meeting.

On December 10, "the Christian Church, hitherto worshipping in Paradise Street Chapel," commenced their meetings in the newly-erected Meeting House in Little Cannon Street; at which place they still hold their worship.

The Swedenborgians, who had hitherto met at their Chapel in Newhall Street, took that vacated by the Baptists in Paradise Street. The following is the record of their opening services, which was celebrated on December 17, 1809, only a week after its old possessors had removed to their new Chapel:—

Sermons were preached by the Rev. William Farraday, and the following grand Selection of Sacred Music, from the Works of Handel and others, was performed by the Choral Society of this Town:—Morning. Occasional Overture, Handel. After first Lesson, Song, "Lord, remember David;" Chorus, "And the Glory of the Lord." After second Lesson, Song, "For behold Darkness;" Chorus, "For unto us a Child is born." After Prayers, Solo Anthem, Mr. Bucklow, of the Lichfield Cathedral, Lichfield; Chorus, "Worthy is the Lamb." After Sermon, Song, "Every Day will I give Thanks;" grand Hallelujah Chorus.—Evening. Overture, Samson. After first Lesson, Anthem, "Hear my Prayer," Kent. After second Lesson, Song and Chorus, "O thou that tellest," Handel. After Prayers, Song, "Why do the Nations;" Chorus, "Let us break their Bonds." After Sermon, grand Double Chorus from Israel in Egypt, "He gave them Hailstones for Rain." Conductor, Mr. Buggins; First Violin, Mr. Saunders; principal Second, Mr. Hodgets. A Collection was made for the Benefit of the Sunday School.

In 1810 the town was again the scene of a riot, which had its rise in so insignificant a trifle as two women quarrelling in the market place over the price of potatoes. Here is the contemporary account:—

RIOTS.

June 4, 1810.—On Monday last, in consequence of a quarrel between two women in the market respecting the price of potatoes, a disposition to riot began to shew itself among the lower classes in this town; but by the vigorous exertions of the civil powers, the mischief done was not more than throwing about the potatoes, breaking some stalls and a few panes of glass. The more evil-disposed part of the mob, however, which consisted principally of boys and women, being thus prevented from committing much mischief in the town, proceeded to the village of Edgbaston, about two miles distant, where, we are

sorry to say, they entered the house and broke the windows and furniture of a most respectable farmer. A troop of the seventh dragoon guards opportunely arrived, and took into custody thirteen of the mob, in the act of destroying and plundering his property, and brought them, tied together with a rope, to the prison. On Tuesday the mob again assembled, and proceeded to another farm house at Edgbaston,* where they began to plunder, when a troop of the Warwickshire Yeomanry, which had mustered with uncommon speed, arrived, and, taking five of them into custody, prevented further mischief. These, together with two others taken in the town, making a total of twenty, were all committed, and sent off in three coaches, under a strong escort, to Warwick gaol. On the evening of Tuesday another attempt at disorder was made at the bottom of Snow Hill; but the Handsworth Volunteer Cavalry arriving prevented any mischief there, except the little which they experienced themselves, by a volley of stones and brickbats thrown by some villains who had secreted themselves under the canal tunnel. Further mischief has been happily prevented by the activity of the civil power, so promptly aided by the military, whose head quarters were at the Hen and Chickens Hotel, under the command of Colonel Maclean, and whose attention was unremitting. The town has for some days past been perfectly quiet, and great praise is due to those who have, by their unwearied diligence and exertions, contributed to produce the desired effect.

The following is a report of the trials of the rioters :—

THE RIOTERS.

July 16, 1810.—On Wednesday, George Francis Field, Thomas Butler, John Westbury, Nathaniel Joseph Bushwell, Richard Hornsby, Henry Ralph, Joseph Simmons, Susannah Bates, and Susannah Jones, were called to the bar and arraigned, charged with having, on the 28th of May last, at the parish of Edgbaston, unlawfully and riotously assembled themselves together, with divers other persons yet unknown, to the great terror of his Majesty's subjects and against his Majesty's peace; to which charge they all pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Maurice observed to the Court, it was not the wish or intention of the prosecution to call for any punishment upon the two girls. The Chairman said that the characters of the girls were such that the Court was unwilling to keep them in a place where they might sustain any further injury; he then ordered them to pay a fine of 1s. each, and be discharged. Field was sentenced to be imprisoned twelve months; Butler, Bushwell, Hornsby, and Simmons, three months; and Westbury and Ralph one month each, and severally fined one shilling.

Charles Bingley and Thomas Woodward were next arraigned for riotously assembling, with many others, at the house of Mr. Wilkes, farmer, at Edgbaston, about nine o'clock on the night of Tuesday, the 29th of May. The mob, armed with sticks, &c., attacked the house by throwing volleys of stones in at a chamber window, which was open, and where there was a young child lying on the bed. The prisoners were both found guilty. Bingley was fined 1s. and ordered to be discharged, but Woodward, a recruit in the Stafford Militia, who, his Lordship said, as a soldier, was breaking the King's peace instead of preserving it, was fined 1s. and imprisoned three months. John Moseley, charged with a similar offence, was discharged by proclamation.

* Mr. Wheeley's, in Wheeley's Lane.

Edward Hodgson and James Batchelor were found guilty of pulling down the public stalls in the market place in this town; the former was fined 1s. and discharged, and the latter fined 1s. and imprisoned three months. Henry Rogers, for shouting and huzzaing, fined 1s. James Jones and Samuel Dale, for breaking down the stalls in the market place, were each fined 1s. and imprisoned six months.

SEDITION.

This trial was of a very different nature to any that preceded it, and excited considerable interest. Joseph Fellows, a decent looking man, was indicted for having, on the evening of the 30th of May last, unlawfully endeavoured, by words and gestures, to excite divers of his Majesty's liege subjects to riot against the King's peace. The only witness against the prisoner was Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon. He stated, that on the evening of the 30th of May last, about ten o'Clock, he observed a great number of people collected together at the corner of Temple Street, in this town; he heard one man haranguing the mob and speaking very loud; he heard the prisoner say "*I can earn five and twenty shillings a week, and that is not sufficient to support me;*" the prisoner then said something about a shilling or fifteen pence, alluding to the use of vegetables, he believed, but which he did not perfectly hear, and added (addressing himself to the people) "*you must right yourselves, and now is the time.*" The Colonel then pressed through the mob and seized the prisoner by the collar. The prisoner at first consented to go with the witness, but a man and woman interfered and attempted a rescue. In the scuffle the Colonel received a violent blow on the temple by a large stone, which at first stunned him, he, however, kept his hold, and some of the peace officers coming to his assistance, Fellows was immediately taken before the Magistrates, the witness never quitting hold of the prisoner all the time. On his cross-examination the witness said the prisoner was standing on the curb-stone, about eight inches higher than the rest of the street; the words spoken by the prisoner were as he had before stated, or words to that effect; the prisoner appeared to have been drinking, but he was sober enough to know what he was about.

Mr. Reynolds, counsel for the prisoner, took an exception to that count in the indictment charging his client with sedition, on the ground that the words were not positively and expressly stated, but the objection was over-ruled by the Court. Mr. Maurice, for the prosecution, in a very able address, called for judgment on the prisoner, who, he insisted, deserved the most exemplary punishment. Mr. Reynolds, in a most eloquent and impressive speech, addressed the jury in reply. The Chairman, with his usual accuracy and candour, summed up the evidence to the jury, who, after consulting for a short time, returned a verdict of *not guilty*.

In the next extract we have, in the briefest of paragraphs, the sentences of the rioters :—

FATAL EFFECTS OF RIOTS.

Sept. 10th, 1810.—William Cottam, Thomas Davis, and Matthew Ruston, who were found guilty of beginning to demolish and pull down the dwelling house of Mr. John Wheely, at Edgbaston, near this town, and received sentence of death at the late Warwick Assizes, are to be transported for and during their natural lives. From the fate of these young men let youth, in every situation of life, take an impressive warning, and resist, with firmness, under whatever form it may present itself, every temptation to outrage and riot. These unfortunate prisoners who, in the first instance, might have joined the mob

with the intention of witnessing only the acts of others, were induced to commit a capital felony, for which crime they have justly forfeited their lives to the laws of their country. By an act of Royal mercy, they have been permitted to live; but under the bitter reflection of being estranged from all their dearest connexions in this world for ever!

King George the Third had now occupied the throne of Great Britain for 50 years; but the national enthusiasm with which the event would have been celebrated was restrained by the critical state of his health. The anniversary of his accession to the throne was October 25; and on November the first the king's illness was officially announced to the Lord Mayor of London. Under such circumstances it is not surprising to find the local chronicle indulging in a few loyal reflections on this occasion :—

October 29, 1810.—On Thursday our revered Monarch completed the 50th year of his reign. The day was observed in this and neighbouring towns with tokens of joyful respect. For reasons which will be obvious to every reflecting and feeling mind, the anniversary was not celebrated with those public demonstrations of joy which were last year so universally manifested, yet the heartfelt veneration which the virtues of our beloved sovereign excite, have not, we are confident, glowed with less ardour as the period of his reign has been lengthened; indeed, were we called upon to name the period at which his Majesty was revered by his people with the most affectionate regard, we believe we might name the present time without hesitation. In addition to the personal virtues which adorn his character, the circumstances of surrounding nations have tended to make the people of this country rally round the throne, and professing their attachment to the man who fills it, devote themselves to the defence of him who is so justly entitled to the appellation of the Father of the People.

To the grief of the Royal Household and of the nation, the youngest and favourite daughter of the King, the Princess Amelia, died on November 2, aged only 27. The national mourning was deep and sincere. On November 19, we read :—

Princess Amelia.—As a token of respect for the memory of this amiable Princess, the large bells of St. Martin's and St. Philip's churches, in this town, were tolled on Tuesday, the day of her funeral, from six o'clock in the morning till ten at night.

In August of this year the proposals for a water works company were again published. The opposition was immediately active; and columns of letters *pro* and *con*, reports of meetings for and against, with the resolutions and reasons given, appear in the *Gazette*; and, strange as it may sound to the proprietors of newspapers at the present time, letters and reports are all advertisements. In a long declaration, published on February 18, 1811, and signed by almost all the public men of the time,

the subscribers state that they are "decidedly of opinion that the establishment of Water Works in this Town is wholly unnecessary, and may be productive of great evil." A town's meeting was held, and a petition against the bill adopted. The opposition was successful; on the second reading, on March 7, the bill was negatived in the House of Commons by a majority of 13.

In April and May of this year collections were made at the various churches and chapels in the town, and a large sum of money was raised for the relief of the British prisoners in France. The town was also visited by a

DREADFUL TEMPEST.

June 3rd, 1811.—One of the most severe storms of rain, hail, and lightning ever remembered in this kingdom, took place on Monday, which continued many hours, and its effects have been of the most awful and destructive nature. It appears to have taken a north-east direction; and we have accounts of its ravages, commencing in Somersetshire, and continued in the counties of Gloucester, Hereford, Worcester, Warwick, and Salop, that would fill our newspaper. The following brief sketch will give our readers some faint idea of the havoc it has made:—

The effects of the storm were severely felt in this town and neighbourhood. By the overflowing of the River Rea, much damage has been done in the vicinity of Digbeth and Deritend. Saltley Bridge has been destroyed; and also the bridges of Hockley and Aston, in consequence of the banks of Soho great pool giving way.

On June 24, we read that the "attention of the principal inhabitants of this place has been lately directed towards the benefits that would accrue to the mercantile and manufacturing interests of the town and neighbourhood, could the letters for London be forwarded at *four* o'clock in the afternoon instead of three, the usual hour."

A town's meeting was of course held on this important subject, of which this report is preserved:—

June 24, 1811.—At a most numerous Meeting of the Merchants, Manufacturers, and other Inhabitants of the town of Birmingham, convened by the High Bailiff, at the Public Office, this 21st day of June, 1811, in Pursuance of a Requisition for that Purpose;

Joseph Ledsam, Esq., High Bailiff, in the Chair;

Resolved,—That it is the Opinion of this Meeting that the Extent and Importance of the Trade of the Town of Birmingham requires the most speedy Communication with the Capital that the Distance will admit of, and that the present Mode, adopted by the General Post Office, of conveying Letters from Birmingham to London by the Holyhead Mail, subjects all Persons, having regular Correspondence with London, to great Delay and Inconvenience.

Resolved,—That it is the Opinion of this Meeting that the Evil complained of can only be remedied by the Establishment of a direct Mail from Birmingham to London, by the

shortest route, by which Means it is ascertained that the London Letters need not be despatched from Birmingham until Four o'Clock p.m., and yet arrive in London at the usual Time, by which the Inhabitants of Birmingham will gain an additional Hour in the Interval between the Arrival and Departure of the Mail.

Resolved,—That there is no Town of equal Importance which has not a direct Mail, and that many Towns, not contributing in the same Degree to the Post Office Revenue. have for a number of years possessed that Advantage.

Resolved,—That a Petition be presented to the Right Hon. the Post Masters General, praying that they would be pleased to establish a direct Mail from London to Birmingham, by the shortest Route, and that the High Bailiff, the Low Bailiff, and the Gentlemen who signed the Requisition, be a Committee to prepare the Petition and to carry the Object of this Meeting into Effect; that they have power to add to their Number, and that seven be competent to act.

The application was successful. The next quotation gives us a good idea of the growth of the town between the years 1801 and 1811. The figures relate to the Parish of Birmingham only :—

July 1, 1811.—POPULATION.—The following are the returns of the population, houses, &c., of the Parish of Birmingham, *exclusive* of Bordesley, Deritend, Ashted, Duddeston, &c., in 1801 and 1811.

	1801	1811
Inhabited houses	12,044	13,626
Uninhabited houses	1,662	213
Houses building	——	116
Number of families	12,683	14,932
Males	28,568	37,076
Females	32,254	36,961
Total number of Inhabitants	60,822	74,037

The power held by the local authorities was rather great. For the sake of the musical festival the High Bailiff actually changed the time for holding the usual Michaelmas fair. The fact is thus recorded :—

August 19, 1811.—We understand the Committee of the General Hospital of this town have represented to the High Bailiff that great inconvenience would arise from the fair being held the same week with the grand musical festival, which can only be celebrated the first week in October; and that, in order to promote as much as possible the interests of this excellent charity, it is the intention of the High Bailiff to have the fair proclaimed the week preceding.

The public events of this decade close with an extract which will be welcome to the brethren of the Masonic craft.

August 19, 1811.—On Monday last there was a grand procession of Free and Accepted Masons of this Town and County, who met to commemorate the anniversary of the Birth-day of their Grand Master, his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, which moved from the Shakespeare Tavern about eleven o'clock, in regular order, to St. Martin's Church, where an excellent Sermon was preached, by the Rev. Jethro Inwood, late Provincial

Grand Chaplain of the counties of Kent and Essex, to a most respectable congregation, (which sermon is ordered to be printed) and after service a collection of £64 15*s*. 4*d*. was made for the benefit of the excellent institution, the Birmingham Dispensary. The brothers of the different lodges appeared clothed in the insignia of their respective orders, with appropriate banners; and we have great reason to believe, from the peaceable and respectable conduct of the spectators, who were very numerous, that they were much gratified by the procession. About one hundred and fifty of the brethren afterwards dined together at the Shakespeare Tavern, with the greatest order and regularity, when their Deputy Provincial Grand Master presided and gave a number of the most loyal, patriotic, and masonic toasts, which added to the conviviality of the day.

§ 3. EDUCATION AND LITERATURE.

Slowly but surely the educational institutions of the town increased; and in every decade in our history some important provision was made for the education of the people. In the present decennial period the first Lancasterian School was founded, and has proved of immense service in the town. In other respects the years between 1801 and 1811 are not the brightest in our literary annals; but still some good and memorable work was done. On September 12, 1803, was published Hutton's Remarks upon North Wales, being the result of Sixteen Tours through part of the Principality. This work was illustrated by four engravings by Landseer and Eginton, from drawings by Barber.

The following letter shows the low estate into which our Old Library had fallen at this period :—

BIRMINGHAM LIBRARY.

December 10, 1803.—It is clear that the present Funds of the Birmingham Library are far from being adequate; that the Augmentation of the annual Subscription is no Object to any of the Proprietors; and that any Law (for no Exception is stated) may be altered by two Thirds of the Subscribers.

In this Statement I have the Concurrence of so many respectable Proprietors acquainted with Books, with the Situation of the Individuals who compose the Body, and with the Meaning of the Laws by which the institution is regulated, that I feel the fullest Confidence in their approbation. G. CROFT.

In January, 1805, Dr. Birkbeck delivered a course of lectures on Electricity, Galvanism, and Pneumatic Chemistry, at the "Stork Tavern." In November, of the same year, Mr. Lloyd delivered a course on Astronomy, in the Theatre. The advertisement states that "Stoves are placed in the Box lobby and the Pit, and the Theatre will be

rendered perfectly warm." This important announcement is added :— ☞ "The Moon will be favourable!"

In this year the first reference to Lancaster's school system is made, and the following statement about his book :—

November 4, 1805.—It gives us pleasure to inform our readers, that the third edition of Joseph Lancaster's Book, entitled "Improvements in Education," consisting of 3,500 copies, is all subscribed for, and as not a copy can be had of any bookseller in the United Kingdom, it is proposed to leave the subscription open for a fourth edition. The King, Queen, and Princesses lately honoured this benevolent man with an audience at Weymouth, and after many enquiries respecting the mode of education practised in his institution, in the Borough Road, Southwark, expressed a benevolent desire to see the same benefit extended to the country; and for this purpose began the following annual subscription to enable Joseph Lancaster to establish schools in villages and country towns, for the education of ten thousand poor children, for which, on his plans of economy, two thousand pounds per annum will be sufficient.

Annual Subscribers.

The King . .	£100	The Princess Mary .	£10
The Queen . . .	50	The Princess Sophia .	10
The Princess Augusta	10	The Princess Amelia .	10
The Princess Elizabeth	10	The Duke of Kent .	10

On January 28, 1806, the publication of Blair's Grave, with Blake's illustrations, was advertised. The drawings were exhibited in Birmingham, and the contemporary critic thus describes them :—

Fine Arts.

July 28th, 1806.—We have never experienced greater satisfaction than in announcing to our readers that there are now in this town, for the inspection of the lovers of the fine arts, some most beautiful designs, intended to illustrate a new and elegant edition of Blair's Grave. At a period when the labours of the pencil are almost wholly directed to the production of portraits, they who dare to soar in the sublime regions of fancy, surely claim the patronage of men of taste and discernment; and the specimens here alluded to, may, with the strictest adherence to truth, be ranked amongst the most vigorous and classical productions of the present age.

Here is a brief account of

The Methodist Sunday School.

November 24th, 1806.—This School was begun in 1795, and is governed by a Committee of 13, chosen annually from among the Subscribers. The increase of Scholars has been so considerable this last year that the Committee has found it necessary to add two Schools more, for the Reception of Children who have been recommended as proper Objects of this Charity. At present the Applications of such Objects are so numerous, that the Committee finds itself reduced to the Alternative of rejecting them or appealing to the Public for additional Support. It has chosen the latter, and, therefore, proceeds to state its Object, its Plans, its Success, and its Expenses.

In 1808 was opened the first private reading room in Birmingham. On August 8 the following advertisement appeared :—

NEWS ROOM.

Proposals for establishing, by Subscription, a News Room, at Messrs. Thomson and Wrightson's, Booksellers, Stamp Office, New Street, Birmingham.

T. and W. having been repeatedly solicited by several respectable Inhabitants of Birmingham to open a News Room, have determined to appropriate to that Purpose an elegant and spacious Apartment at their Residence, in New Street, to which they request the Patronage of their Friends and the Public.

The Room to be opened from Nine in the Morning till Nine in the Evening, and to be regularly supplied with four London daily Papers, Lloyd's List, Prices Current, one Sunday Paper, three Popular Provincial Papers, and the three Birmingham Papers, also the Reviews, and most popular Magazines.

The Utility of a private News Room, on a Plan like this, must be particularly obvious, as it will afford an opportunity of obtaining Information without the Hurry and Inconvenience naturally attending upon a Public Room, and it may form a place of Meeting for Merchants, Tradesmen and others. The Subscribers will have the Liberty of making their own Rules.

A number of respectable Gentlemen have already become Subscribers, and, as it is particularly wished that the Room may be speedily opened, those Gentlemen who approve of the Plan, and wish to become Subscribers, are requested to send in their Names as early as possible, that no time may be lost in completing the necessary arrangements.

A List of Subscribers may be seen at the Stamp Office, where Prospectuses may be had.

The projectors soon found encouragement enough to warrant them in opening the Room ; for only a fortnight later we have the announcement that it will be opened on that day :—

NEWS AND READNIG ROOM, STAMP OFFICE, NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

August 22, 1808.—Thomson and Wrightson return their grateful Acknowledgments to their numerous Subscribers and the Public, and beg leave to inform them that their News and Reading Room will be opened this present Monday, August 22nd, and will be regularly supplied with the Courier, Traveller, Star, and Globe Evening Papers, the Sunday Review, the Edinburgh Herald, Gore's Liverpool Advertiser, Lloyd's List, Prices Current, and the three Birmingham Papers, together with the most approved Reviews and Magazines.

Terms—One Guinea per Annum, to be paid at the time of Subscription.

We have now reached the year in which was introduced Lancaster's system for instructing poor children. In November, 1808, Mr. Lancaster gave two lectures on his system in this town. A liberal subscription was raised to establish a School on his plan, and the work was begun :—

December 5, 1808.—We have no doubt but that all who take a lively interest in the welfare of children in the lower classes of society will be gratified to hear that Mr. Joseph Lancaster, whose school in London for instructing poor children in reading, writing, and

arithmetic on a new, expeditious, and cheap plan, and who has received the particular patronage and subscriptions of the King and Queen and Royal Family, and many of the first characters in the kingdom, has given two Lectures in this town to large and respectable assemblies, and explained the general principles on which his school is conducted, which were received with much satisfaction; and we are gratified in hearing that a liberal subscription is entered into to establish a school in this town, on the plan which has been successfully adopted in London, Bristol, Cambridge, and several other places.

In January, 1809, the advertisement appeared calling the first meeting on this important subject:—

INSTRUCTION OF POOR CHILDREN.

January 16, 1809.—The Friends and Benefactors of a School, after the Plan of Joseph Lancaster, for instructing poor Children in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, in Birmingham, are requested to attend a General Meeting, which will be held at the Public Office, on Friday, the 20th Instant, at Half-past Ten o'Clock in the Morning, to receive the Report of the Committee, and to consider of the Eligibility of erecting a School Room, after a Plan which will be then submitted to the Meeting.

P. M. JAMES, Chairman.

The meeting was held, and the work was commenced with the usual earnestness. We quote the report of this important meeting:—

January 23, 1809.—At a General Meeting of the Friends and Benefactors of a School, after a plan of Joseph Lancaster, for instructing poor children in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, in Birmingham, held at the Public Office, on Friday, the 20th of January, 1809;

Samuel Galton in the Chair;

The Committee appointed at the last General Meeting having brought in the following Rules and Regulations to be observed in the School or Schools to be established in this Town, and for the general Management of the Same:—

1. That all Benefactors of Ten Guineas or upwards be Governors for Life; and all Annual Subscribers of One Guinea or upwards be Governors during Payment.

2. That all Benefactors of Ten Guineas or annual Subscribers of One Guinea, shall be entitled to keep constantly in the School four Scholars, and so proportionably for any larger or smaller Subscriptions. But no Benefactor of less than Five Guineas nor annual Subscriber of less than Ten Shillings and Sixpence, be entitled to these Privileges.

3. That if the School or Schools shall be capable of taking in a greater Number of Children than shall be recommended by Benefactors and Subscribers, the Committee shall arrange a Plan for the Admission of Children not so recommended.

4. That two of the Committee shall attend at the School every Monday morning, at Ten o'clock, to receive the Children recommended, who must be attended by a Parent or Friend, at their first introduction; and that such Parent or Friend be informed that the Children must attend the School regularly at the Hour appointed, and be sent clean and decent, with Hair combed, and Face and Hands washed; and that the Parent or Friend be also informed that they will be expected to take care that the Child or Children brought by them shall be regularly taken to a Place of Worship every Sunday, or introduced to a Sunday School.

5. That before the Children proceed to learn in the Morning, Silence shall be observed, when one or two Chapters in the Old or New Testament be audibly and solemnly read by the Master, or one or more of the elder Boys, and the same Practice shall be repeated in the course of the Afternoon or Evening.

6. That the Committee shall select the Teacher or Teachers, and fix his or their Salary or Salaries, and change them as occasion may require.

7. That the Committee shall provide a suitable Room or Rooms, Desks, Books, and every thing needful, and shall determine upon the Rewards that are to be dispensed for the Encouragement of Merit; and the Nature of the Punishments for the Disorderly and Vicious.

8. That the Committee shall depute one of their number to attend the School or Schools daily, for the first three Months, and shall afterwards appoint from the Subscribers at large two weekly Visitors; and a Book shall be kept, in which the Visitors shall make such Remarks as may appear to them necessary, which Book shall be laid before the Committee.

9. That the Committee shall keep an accurate Account of all Receipts and Disbursements, and exhibit the same to the General Meeting of Benefactors and Subscribers, which will be held annually on the second Tuesday in December, and these Accounts shall be previously examined by two Auditors, appointed by the former General Meeting.

10. That at the Annual Meeting, in December, a Report shall be made by the Committee of the State of the School or Schools, and of the Number of Children admitted.

11. That at the Annual Meeting a Committee of fifteen Governors be chosen by Ballot for the Year ensuing, and that five be competent to act.

12. That all new Rules and Regulations, and all Alterations or Amendments of the present Rules and Regulations, shall be made at the Annual General Meeting, when no Governor shall be allowed to vote by Proxy, except Ladies, or Governors that reside at a distance of more than five miles from Birmingham; but none of the Laws now made shall be altered, but by a Majority of two Thirds of the Meeting.

13. That the Committee or any Ten Governors be empowered to call a Special Meeting, by giving not less than ten Days' previous Notice, by circular Letters, or by public advertisement, in one or more of the Birmingham Papers, specifying the Object.

Resolved,—That these Rules and Regulations be adopted.

Resolved,—That it is the opinion of this Meeting that a proper Building should be erected in an economical Manner with necessary Accommodations, and in a Situation likely to serve the Purposes of the Establishment.

Resolved,—That the Committee be requested to take Ground, and to cause a Building to be erected upon such a Plan and Estimate as shall appear to them eligible, and that the same be done by Contract.

Resolved,—That Samuel Lloyd be appointed Treasurer.

Resolved,—That P. M. James be appointed Secretary.

SAMUEL GALTON, Chairman.

Resolved,—That the Thanks of the Meeting be given to the Chairman for his able and intelligent Conduct in the Chair.

Subscriptions and Benefactions are received by Samuel Lloyd and P. M. James.

In January, 1810, Mr. Walker delivered a course of Lectures on Astronomy in the Theatre. The paragraph notice will be read with pleasure :—

THEATRE ROYAL.

January 8, 1810.—Mr. Walker's astronomical lectures on his admirable transparent Orrery, the Eidouranian, have met with great success in the last week; his audiences have doubled each evening. This original attempt at familiarizing the eldest of the sciences was carried into effect in this town about thirty years ago, by Mr. Walker; and the encouragement it receives acknowledges the talents of the inventor, and the merit of the artists concerned in its execution. The humble imitations that have occasionally visited this town had somewhat abused the hope of great success, but we fear not still to rival Liverpool and Manchester in the due encouragement of true merit.

Dr. Croft, the lecturer at St. Martin's Church, died on Thursday, May 11, 1809, in the 62nd year of his age. In the obituary notice of his death we learn that he was "formerly Fellow of University College, Oxford, Preacher of the Bampton Lectures in 1786, Vicar of Arncliffe, and Rector of Thwing, in the County of York, late Head Master of Brewood School, Staffordshire, and for the last 18 years Lecturer of St. Martin's Church in this town. To great classical learning he added a considerable knowledge of the Hebrew, the Syriac, and some modern languages, and an extensive acquaintance with Ecclesiastical Law. He was a zealous supporter of our excellent Constitution in Church and State, and made himself known in the literary world by several publications on Theology, Politics, and Ethics. By all who knew him in private life he was highly esteemed for his integrity, his hospitality, his constancy and ardour as a friend, his kind and anxious attention as a councellor of the poor, and his most amiable disposition as a husband and a father."

Dr. Croft had contributed rather largely to the literature of his time. He was the author of the Bampton Lectures for 1786; and wrote many pamphlets on the topics of the day. From his Thoughts on Methodism (1795) we make the following extract; which proves that on some subjects the opinions of the divine were rather more liberal than is generally supposed :—

"Much has been said by Wesley and Whitfield against plays and horse-races, against assemblies and balls. Perhaps the stage was never less exceptional than at present. If it be not a school of virtue, it may be a source of innocent amusement. Of horse-races, without doubt, the evil far outweighs the good. They bring together the refuse of creation, they encourage gaming, and who will defend the casuistry of jockeys? What

are the evil of balls and assemblies we have not yet heard. Can the two sexes meet in more innocent, and at the same time more pleasing intercourse? Nothing but an early introduction seems objectionable. Against private theatres we may enter a warm and serious protest. They destroy that amiable diffidence so pleasing in both sexes, and so essential to the female sex."*

He was a bitter opponent of Dr. Priestley; he defended the Test Laws in a sermon not wanting in strength of abuse; he opposed Parliamentary Reform, and in his letter to the Rev. C. Wyvill on this question he says :—

"Of yourself, as chairman of the splenetic and querulous, of Dr. Priestley, of Mr. Whitehead, of Mr. Grey, and Major Cartwright, I shall ever say, *Da istos patronos adversariis.* Of Mr. Grey in particular, the advocate of the dissenters and the retailer of their calumny, the clergy of Birmingham, *of whom he says he can believe anything*, will ever think it immaterial what he believes."

He thus concludes his letter on Reform :—

"The laudable attempts which have been used to convince the lower classes of the people that they are happy, have already been more successful than we expected, and I console myself that the whole community is represented in the proper sense of representation, not only by the House of Commons, but by the House of Peers, and by our gracious Sovereign himself. They act in our stead, and they cannot ruin us without being involved in the ruin."†

In short Dr. Croft was a Tory divine of what, in irony, is often called the "good old school." After his death his widow, Ann Croft, published two volumes of his sermons, dedicated to Lord Eldon.

The next extract gives the report of the first year's working of our new educational effort. It will be seen that it was eminently successful :—

LANCASTERIAN FREE SCHOOL, SEVERN STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

December 24, 1810.—At a General Meeting of the Subscribers and Benefactors, held at the Public Offices, on Tuesday, the 11th of December, 1810;

Samuel Galton in the Chair;

A Report of the State of the Institution having been presented from the Committee, of which the following is the abstract, viz. :—

"The Committee are happy in being able, at the end of the first Year. to report to the General Meeting the prosperous State of the Establishment in regard to the Number of Children that have been admitted, as well as the Proficiency and excellent Order of the Boys, resulting principally, as they conceive, from the particular System of Education that has been adopted.

* Thoughts concerning the Methodists and the Established Clergy. By George Croft, D.D., pp. 16 and 17.

† Plans of Parliamentary Reform Proved to be Visionary, in a letter to the Rev. C. Wyvill, late Chairman of the Association. By George Croft, D.D., pp. 27, 28.

"Five Hundred and Fifty-four Boys have been admitted since the 11th of September, 1809, when the School was first opened. Of this Number, One Hundred and Fifty-four have left School, and Four Hundred are now in the Habit of regular Attendance.

The Boys are classed according to their Proficiency in Reading. Many instances have occurred of Boys having been raised four, and in some instances, five Classes higher than when they were first admitted—a Period of less than fourteen Months.

"At the opening of the School forty-one Boys had learnt to write; all who were then admitted can now write tolerably well, and the number of those now in the School that have not begun to write is only twenty-two.

"There were at first only six Boys who had begun Arithmetic; this number has since been increased to ninety-two.

"As it is conceived that there is no Species of public Institution in which the Application of a certain Sum of Money can be productive of a greater Quantity of Good, it is confidently hoped that the Establishment may meet with that Support which is requisite for enabling it to continue to exert its beneficial influence as widely as it is now diffused.

"The Committee beg to express their earnest wish that the School should be more generally visited, being convinced that an actual Inspection must recommend it more forcibly than any Representation that can be made of the Advantages of the System.

"The School is open to Visitors every Week Day, excepting Saturday, between the Hours of Eleven and Twelve in the Forenoon."

Resolved,—That the said Report be printed and distributed.

A Statement of the Accounts, audited and signed, having been laid before the General Meeting,

Resolved,—That these Accounts do pass.

SAMUEL GALTON, Chairman.

Resolved,—That the Thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Chairman for his able Conduct in the Chair.

On April 15, 1811, John Kempson published a new map of the Town and Parish of Birmingham, "describing particularly the Boundaries of the same, as perambulated by the Commissioners of the Birmingham Street Acts in the year 1810."

The second annual meeting of the Royal Lancasterian Free School was held on December 10, 1811. The report of the Committee is full of interest to all who desire to trace the growth of education in a large town, which may be accepted as an index of its growth throughout the country. Here is the report :—

In reporting the Progress of the Royal Lancasterian Free School, the Committee have the gratification of observing that their Attention has been drawn to new Proofs of its Utility and beneficial Consequences. Since the opening of the School in September, 1809, Seven Hundred Boys have received Instruction; and of these it may be presumed that the greater number would have grown up in Ignorance, had it not been for the Aid

which has been granted them by this Institution. This important Fact affords to the Christian Mind the most pleasing Reflections, and offers a powerful inducement for persevering in an Undertaking of such extensive Benefit.

Four Hundred Boys, being the full Number, continue to attend the School; and such has been the progress effected in their Instruction, that more than One Half have been advanced to the two higher Classes of Reading and Writing, and One Hundred and Sixty-two are admitted into the Arithmetic Class. Sixty-eight Candidates are registered for Admission, and it is uniformly found that applications keep Pace with the Occurrence of a Vacancy.

Since the last Annual Meeting the Library has been presented with a Number of Books, chiefly of Natural History, and Voyages and Travels. Forty Boys are entered on the Library List, and this Privilege, being the Reward of good Conduct, operates as an Incentive to Improvement and orderly Behaviour. The System of moderate and suitable Rewards has been productive of the happiest Effects; and such is the adaptation of the Discipline of the School to the Disposition of the Scholars, that the Occasions for Punishments rarely occur. Regularity, Order, and Punctuality, become habitual, and, when they leave School, the Boys take with them these desirable Habits, and are thereby rendered more valuable Servants to their Employers.

Nor is the Regulation for the Attendance of the Boys on Religious Worship unproductive or neglected. The following is the Result of an examination of Three Hundred and Forty Boys, present on the 3rd of December, 1811.

Of this number, 187 attend Sunday Schools; 64 are taken to Church by their Parents; 80 to Dissenting Chapels and Meeting Houses; 4 to the Synagogue; and 5 kept at home by Accidents.

In order to complete the Building and ventilate the School Room the Committee have been unable to Liquidate the Debt of last year, and are still indebted to the Indulgence of the Treasurer to the Sum of £472 14s. 7d., notwithstanding the liberal Contributions which they have received. The measure being now completed, and the Commodiousness of the Building ascertained, such Expenses will not again occur, and after the above Debt shall have been cleared, the Expenditure will be confined to the more immediate Objects of the Institution.

The Simple Principle of teaching the Bible according to the Practices of the Bible Society, without Note or Comment, withdraws all Ground of Offence from the believers in the Sacred Text, under whatever Denomination they may be divided.

It is an inviolable Law to teach nothing but what is the Standard of Belief of all Christians, the *Scriptures themselves;* thus extending the Benefits of Education to all religious Classes of the Community, instead of confining them to one or a few. The Invitations to unite in this good Work may be as freely and unexceptionably accepted, as the Advantages will be universally and impartially diffused. It is an obvious Truth that to render the Distribution of the Bible efficient it is necessary that the People should be able to read it.

In the town of Birmingham, where the labouring class forms so large a Proportion of the Inhabitants, the importance of a cheap and expeditious Mode of Instruction will be duly appreciated. Ignorance has ever been found the abundant Source of Vice, and is

frequently the Cause and Companion of Poverty. In a recent Examination of the State of the Poor in this Place, it was ascertained that of 3,124 Persons who, in the course of several successive years, had been sworn to Settlements and other Matters claiming parochial Relief, 2,370 could not write at all, and of the remaining 754 many could not write a legible Hand.

The Committee feel themselves called upon to acknowledge the Benefit which has been derived from the Energy, Abilities, and Fidelity of Mr. John Veevers, the Master of the School. He has seconded their Efforts with unremitting Zeal, and under his intelligent Care the School has been carried to a Degree of Excellence, at once verifying the Efficiency of the Lancasterian System, and fulfilling the expectations of the benevolent Founders. It has been considered by many competent judges, who have had opportunities of comparing it with others, as affording the most perfect Example of popular Instruction in the Country; honourable to the Supporters, and of essential Benefit to the Town of Birmingham. Those who have not yet seen the School, are entreated to visit it and judge for themselves, and the Affluent and the Charitable are earnestly solicited for their aid to an Institution which yields such abundant Evidence of its Utility and Advantage.

With this encouraging report our educational record of this decade closes.

§ 4. AMUSEMENTS.

The recreations of a people are as permanent as their manners and customs, and present little change in the course of years. In the eighteenth century we had few of the out-door sports which our forefathers loved so much, and which were so characteristic of this country as to win for it the title of "Merry England." During the last quarter of a century we have endeavoured to restore the love of out-door and athletic games; and the success which has attended these efforts is very encouraging. The organisation of the Volunteer Rifle Corps and the opening of Free Parks have done much to foster a change in the habits of the people which cannot but be productive of the greatest good. At the time of which we write there was a great Volunteer movement going on; but then it was a work of necessity as well as patriotism, and, excepting the brutal sports of the age, there was scarcely any amusements but the theatre and concerts. Our theatrical annals of the period are full of events interesting to all lovers of the drama. Our chapter opens with a pleasant record of amusement and charity combined:—

PRIVATE THEATRICALS.

January 25th, 1802.—The Ladies and Gentlemen who so humanely volunteered their services last season for the benefit of the *Soup Shop, General Hospital, and Blue Coat Charity School*, have again kindly offered to perform a Play for the benefit of the General Hospital, which has been thankfully received by the Committee, and we understand the Comedy of Secrets Worth Knowing, with the Farce of Barnaby Brittle, will be performed in the course of next month; and we doubt not but the avidity of the Public to serve this excellent Institution will keep pace with that curiosity which was so highly gratified last year, by the display of talents which at once did honour to the heads and hearts of the Performers. Too much praise cannot be given to those philanthropic minds whose study it *was* to alleviate the distresses of the poor during the late unhappy pressure of the times, and who *now* so humanely step forward to pour balsam, wine, and oil into the wounds of the afflicted.

This performance produced "the clear sum of £156 15s. 6d." Our next is worth quoting for several reasons:—

AMUSEMENTS.

May 24, 1802.—The Ladies and Gentlemen of Birmingham are respectfully informed that a very commodious portable *Amphitheatre is fitting up on the Premises of the Stork Tavern*, and will Open on Monday, the 31st of May, with the greatest Variety of Equestrian Feats ever exhibited in Birmingham, by the most select Horsemen from Astley's and and Jones's Amphitheatres in London. Particulars of the Performances will be timely advertised.

One of the favourite singers at this period was the celebrated Mrs. Billington. Her performance excited the warmest admiration, as is proved by the following brief notice of her first appearance:—

August 2, 1802.—On Wednesday evening Mrs. Billington made her first appearance at our Theatre, in the character of Rosetta, in Love in a Village. To add to her justly-merited fame would be impossible as to describe the excellence of her performance, particularly on Friday evening, in the songs of Mandane, in the Opera of Artaxerxes, in which was combined the purest and most sublime melody with the most astonishing and comprehensive execution. In "The Soldier tired of War's Alarms," she introduced a variation from thirds to fifths, no less novel than pleasing, thus evincing at will the wonderful powers of her voice. The House, we are happy to say, has been numerously attended each evening of her performance by a brilliant audience, who strongly testified, by their unbounded applause the gratification which they experienced; and we doubt not the Manager will be amply remunerated for his liberal and spirited exertions.

Our old friend, Mr. Joseph Weston's Muse, laboured on the occasion, and was thus delivered:—

August 2, 1802.—

TO MRS. BILLINGTON.

Vocal Enchantress, whose Seraphic Song
Now, gently undulating, steals along—
Now, awful rolling, fills the astonish'd Ear,
With Sounds that Angels might with rapture hear—

Potent the Depth of Science to explore,
And add to Music Charms unknown before ;
Waste not too lavishly unrivall'd Powers
To bless our joyous—soothe our pensive Hours :
Lest Thou, fair Star of Evening, dazzling bright,
Should'st cease, too soon, to gild the gloom of Night,
And we should vainly seek, among the Race
Of beauteous Twinklers, to supply thy Place !

Solihull, July 31, 1802. JOSEPH WESTON.

The famous singer was as generous as she was gifted ; and we have one pleasing instance of her generosity to quote :—

August 9, 1802.—On Saturday evening, Mrs. Billington, with a liberality highly honourable to her, performed gratuitously the part of Mandane, in the Opera of Artaxerxes, for the Benefit of the General Hospital, near this town ; and Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkins, and the other performers, also disinterestedly uniting their efforts, Mr. M'Cready, with a generosity no less laudable, appropriated the entire receipts of the house to the service of that excellent institution. If there could be any addition to the gratification experienced by the audience on that occasion, it must have arisen from the reflection that such transcendent abilities were exerted to alleviate the most poignant of human calamities—sickness and distress. Such an application of superior talent eminently demonstrates that harmony and benevolence are the kindred inhabitants of the same breast, and cannot fail to prove an acceptable offering at that shrine where only her melody can be excelled. The clear receipts of the house, we are happy to state, amounted to 153*l.* 11*s.*

In March, 1803, the amusements were varied by the presence of a once noted band of musicians, who gave a

PANDEAN CONCERT.

March 28, 1803.—The Italian Company of Musicians, who have had the Honour of performing before His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and some of the first Nobility in the Kingdom, begs to solicit the Patronage of the Ladies and Gentlemen of Birmingham to a Concert, for an Hour's Amusement, which they propose having on Friday next, April 1st, at the Great Room, Shakespeare Tavern.—To begin precisely at Eight o'clock. The Instruments to be played upon are four sets of Pandean Pipes, two Guitars, a Mezza Luna, Cymbals, Turkish Drum, &c. The Sweetness of Tone of the Pandean Pipe is well known, and the Combinations of the whole playing in Harmony, which make a full Concert, they flatter themselves will be a complete Novelty, and produce such an Effect as will not fail to please.—Admittance 2s.

Later on we have another band, of a different kind, catering for the amusement of our fathers :—

May 23, 1803.—For a few Nights only, the Famous Band of Silver Miners will perform a Grand Concert, this present Monday, the 23rd, and Wednesday, the 25th, and Thursday, the 26th of May, at the Hotel, Temple Row, Birmingham. A Change of Performance will take place on Wednesday and Thursday Evenings.

The theatrical season of 1804 was very rich in attractions. We had Mr. G. F. Cooke in a round of his best characters, Blanchard, Harley, Suett, and others; but the great event was the appearance of the Young Roscius. We can scarcely conceive the *furore* which the performances of this prodigy created. Old people, who remember his visits to our theatre, tell wonderful stories of the awful crushings which a persevering populace endured in order to witness this phenomenon. We have heard of enthusiastic persons waiting at the pit and gallery doors from mid-day until half-past six in the evening, and taking their meals with them in order to be able to endure their theatrical martyrdom with something like comfort. The enthusiasm was contagious, and people went to the playhouse who ordinarily looked upon it as the high road to perdition. The earnings of this boy surpass even the enormous sums which a Toole and a Sothern are said to make in the present day. In the "puff preliminary" of his visit to this town we are told that, in Edinburgh, he made a "clear sum of £1,500 in nine nights." The following is the notice of his first appearance in Birmingham, which took place on August 13, 1804:—

August 20, 1804.—The young Roscius made his first appearance on this stage on Monday evening, in the character of Norval in the tragedy of Douglas. This character is admirably adapted to display the abilities of the performer to the best advantage. Very great expectation had been excited, consequently the Theatre was filled to witness the *dèbut* of the young candidate for public favour. In his delineation of the character, the youthful warrior, in the hands of Master Betty, lost none of the fire and vigour which mark his progress through the various scenes in which he is engaged. The audience seemed to feel the interest which his performance excited, and testified their approbation by loud plaudits. The astonishing judgment which he displayed in delivering the text of his author, the animation which he evinced in giving it effect, the power and flexibility of his voice, and, in fact, the *tout ensemble*, was such as to call forth the most unbounded tokens of applause. It was a performance in which Master Betty must be allowed to equal, if not surpass, that of the greatest actor the stage can boast. His attitudes were appropriately correct, and the elegance of his demeanour, at the same time combining modesty with it, was calculated to impress the spectators with the most favourable opinion of him. There was something novel and astonishing in seeing a child, for he is not more than twelve years old, play a character in so perfect a manner which was assigned to mature age. The part of Lady Randolph was most admirably sustained by Miss Smith. Mr. Harley in Old Norval, and Mr. Carles in Glenalvon, were very respectable.—On Wednesday he played Rolla, and added to the fame which he so deservedly, on his first performance, had acquired.—On Thursday Hamlet. Both characters he has studied with the utmost attention, and plays them so admirably as to set criticism at defiance.—On Friday he undertook the very arduous character of Richard the Third. The variety of

conflicting passions which the crook-backed tyrant at all times was a prey to, were depicted by the young Roscius in the most able manner. He was particularly great in the scene with the murderers, and where he dares Richmond to the field. Miss Norton in the gentle Lady Ann, and Miss Smith in the Queen, were entitled to much applause. Mr. M'Cready, in "high-reaching Buckingham," was "circumspect" in his attention to gain credit with the audience for his conception of the character, which he performed with considerable effect; indeed the whole cast of the play was creditable to the performers and the manager. This evening the play of Hamlet will be repeated, in which the young Roscius will make his second appearance, for the benefit of that favourite of the public, Mr. Hill.

Mr. Weston again came forward to celebrate the wonder, and produced the following

August 20th, 1804. LINES

Written on seeing the theatrical phenomenon, called YOUNG *Roscius* (a boy, twelve years old) at the Birmingham Theatre, in the Characters of Young Norval, Rolla, Hamlet, and Richard the Third. By Mr. Weston.

NATURE one Day with ART was Notes comparing;
"I cannot *bear* (said she) your Vaunt of *sharing*
"My soul Creation! If I grant that Kemble
"May, of us Twain, *yourself* the *most* resemble;
"And that, though I bestow'd the Shape and Face,
"YOU added Action, Energy, and Grace,—
"What then? Exclusively is COOKE *my own;*
"Of Thee *regardless*, nay, to THEE *unknown!*
"Marry come up! (quoth ART) since thus you flout me
"And boast that you can do your Work without me,
"TRY! Make *one* Man (deprived of my Assistance)
"A perfect play'r—and I will keep my distance!"
"A MAN! (Dame NATURE, in a Rage, replied)
"A CHILD—a *very* CHILD shall crush thy Pride!"
True to her Word, she stamp'd her *Infant* Son,
The faithful Miniature of Roscius *gone*—
Cooke, Kemble, Holman, GARRICK—*all in one!*

The engagement did not, however, conclude without a misunderstanding, to which his father thus refers:—

TO THE EDITOR.

September 3rd, 1804.—Sir,—Your granting a place in your paper to the following lines will be considered a particular obligation conferred on the father of the Young *Roscius*, who, in his son's name, embraces this opportunity of returning his most unfeigned thanks to the Ladies and Gentlemen of Birmingham, for the truly flattering reception they have honoured him with on his *First* visit to England. The applause bestowed on his juvenile efforts, and the hospitality he has experienced, impresses his youthful mind with sensations which time or circumstances can never efface.

The attention, puntuality, and liberal conduct of the Manager call forth his sincere acknowledgments. It was with infinite regret Mr. Betty observed that a misrepresentation of facts had placed that Gentleman in so unpleasant a predicament on Friday evening; although *his own statement* was sufficiently *clear*, *candid*, and evidently *satisfactory* to the Audience, yet I feel it is but *justice* in *me* to assure the public that Mr. M'Cready (so far from objecting) *repeatedly* and *earnestly requested* I would allow the youth to continue the remainder of the season, and perform for *every benefit*, and that *he* would be responsible for the amount of any egagement I would enter into; but the *dread* of *continued exertion* proving *injurious* to his health, *compelled me* to decline *all solicitation.*

In the *most positive* and *unequivocal* manner *I declare* that no *individual whatever* had *any promise* of *his aid from me*, *who alone* had *the power* to make *such promise.*

I have the honour to be, with great respect, Sir,
Your obliged humble Servant,
HENRY BETTY.

This letter receives an illustration from a paragraph which appeared in the *Gazette* of the same date :—

Mr. HILL, grateful for the public favour he experienced on his benefit night, begs leave to state to the Ladies and Gentlemen of Birmingham, that it was to the *kind* and *unsolicited* interference of the Manager he was indebted for the very effectual advantage he derived from the performance of the Young Roscius. An *invidious* and *fallacious* report being in circulation, asserting that Mr. *M'Cready had endeavoured to prevent the Young gentleman performing*, induces Mr. Hill to obtrude on the public this acknowledgment of Mr. *M'Cready's* voluntary act of friendship, at a moment when, in a *great degree*, it *militated* against *his own interest.*

Theatre, September 1, 1804.

Young Betty's fame was destined to remain long after his departure. Our townsman, Mr. J. Bisset, whose literary productions we have previously noticed, on October 22, announced the following work in preparation :—

Speedily will be published, THE DRAMATIC EXCELLENCIES of the JUVENILE ROSCIUS clearly elucidated, with critical Remarks on the Hypercriticisms of JUSTUS, ENNIUS, and CRITO. Interspersed with authentic and interesting Anecdotes of the Rise and Progress of this wonderful Phenomenon, who so brightly illumines the Theatric Hemisphere.

Faithfully compiled by
J. BISSET, MUSEUM, BIRMINGHAM.
Vide! Aude! Crede!

In the defence of ROSCIUS (injured Youth),
Impartial I'll adhere to strictest Truth;
I'll hazard few Opinions of *my own*
But *faithful* give you other's *pro* and *con.*

While you assert your Birthright (Britons' Pride)
To judge his Cause—let him be fairly tried ;
But let your MINDS from *Prejudice* be free,
Britons ! before Decision—*hear* and *see !*

Birmingham, printed for the Author, by Knott and Lloyd.

In his next advertisement the enthusiastic critic seems quite beside himself in alluding to the genius of this "Wonder of the Age,"—but we had better quote his words :—

October 29. 1804.—ROSCIUS.—The young Gentleman whose extraordinary dramatic Talents have acquired for him the above Appellation, having lately engrossed a great degree of public attention, the Editor presumes that an attempt to lay before the Lovers of the Drama and the Friends of Literature some authentic Documents respecting this "Wonder of the Age" will not be unacceptable ; and as various Opinions have been circulated in the public Prints on the Merits and Acquirements of this Phenomenon—on the magic Powers and transcendent Excellences of his Performance in a vast Variety of dissimilar Characters—on his astonishing Display of native unsophisticated Genius, and its Influence over the willing and *un*willing minds of ALL his Auditors ; and as the exalted Panegyrics which his unrivalled Talents have called forth, have kindled the flames of Envy, and provoked the *tremendous Critic's Frown*, it is hoped that a fair and impartial Statement of the Arguments on both Sides will be considered as an Act of Justice towards insulted Genius, and an humble Effort to prepare his way to just Renown and honourable Fame, by the Removal of those Obstacles which Prejudice, Envy, or Malevolence have interposed.

Birmingham : printed for the Author, by Knott and Lloyd.

In July of the next season the petted child appeared again, and played in Norval, Richard the Third, Hamlet, Orestes, Tancred, and Zanga. The dramatic season was otherwise well supported. We had Mr. Cooke again, Mr. Barrymore, Mrs. Johnstone, Mrs. Glover, that fund of fun and humour, Munden, and, unfortunately, another infant phenomenon in the shape of a Miss Mudie, "a child only seven years of age." Our old friend Mr. Morfitt was smitten with this young lady much in the same manner that Mr. Bisset had been with Roscius, and offered the following tribute to this the "sweetest bud of genius" :—

MISS MUDIE.

August 12, 1805.—To the Printers.—Gentlemen,—Our dramatic host, Mr. M'Cready, who, year after year, spurs the jaded appetite by some new delicacy, has lately furnished us with a treat in Miss MUDIE, *a young lady not quite seven years old.* She is, without flattery, the sweetest bud of genius I ever beheld ; and, if fostered by the genial rays of public patronage, promises to be the pride of the theatrical garden. At an age when other girls are scarcely out of their primer, she discloses dramatic talents, which not only please but astonish, and is a most striking instance of the *præcox ingenium.* However it may

perplex philosophy, and make ignorance stare, it is certain that we cannot set bounds to the "wonder-working" power of nature, who sports as she pleases, giving wisdom to babes, and gigantic abilities to pigmy forms. We are told by naturalists that she is *maxima in minimis;* and that there are more wonders discoverable in the minutest fly than in the most unwieldy elephant.

This theatrical phenomenon (for I know not a more apposite appellation) made her *début* on our boards on Wednesday last, in the characters of Miss Peggy, in the Country Girl, and Fribble, in Miss in her Teens. She has since performed young *Norval* twice, with Nell, in the Devil to Pay, and Cowslip, in the Agreeable Surprise, amidst a thunder of applause. Her voice is clear, expressive and melodious, by no means destitute of flexibility, and, with reference to her years, singularly powerful. Her declamation is articulate, distinct, and generally correct, and she possesses far more dignity than could be expected from such a puny person. Her gesture is animated, but, of course, admits of correction and improvement, and her conceptions, particularly in young Norval, are much too big for her powers of expression. Yet her energies surprize, and she appears a spirited though Lilliputian hero. Such was the astonishment excited by her general acting, that it was difficult to discriminate particular parts; but in speaking the words, "the blood of Douglas can protect itself," and various other passages of animation, her mind seemed to *dilate* her little form, and swell it into importance. In the scene where Glenalvon treats young Norval with the most provoking insolence, the agitation of the little hero was admirably pourtrayed; he seemed convulsed with passions which he laboured to conceal, while contempt sat scowling on his brow.

But great as she is in tragedy, she is, in my opinion, greater in comedy. Thalia's sweetest smile plays upon her countenance; she is the child of fun, and vivacity sparkles in her eyes. She possesses a *naïvete*, an infantine simplicity, which, in some characters, must be very fascinating. Besides her figure operates less against her in comic than in heroic scenes, and she grows so much in our estimation, that instead of seven we cannot help sometimes fancying her to be seventeen. Such is the magic of fancy, which he who possesses not will never duly appreciate the merits of this *little* but *great* actress. Her Nell, in the Devil to Pay, was, in some parts, Mrs. Jordan in miniature, and she undoubtedly possesses all the elements of excellence as a comedian. Arch and easy, sprightly and unaffected, she seems quite at home; and he must be a surly critic indeed who, making a candid allowance for years, does not pronounce her to be in tragedy interesting, and in comedy admirable.

I have every reason to believe that this impartial, but hasty and imperfect, critique will excite the sneer of scepticism. People will naturally ridicule what they cannot believe; but I beg they will, upon the principles of common candour, suspend their judgment, and bridle their censure, until they have seen this little phenomenon, being abundantly convinced that their doubts will be lost in astonishment, and their censure finally terminate in applause. I am, Gentlemen, Yours, &c.,

St. Paul's Square, Birmingham, August 9, 1805. J. MORFITT.

In 1806 the Theatre was newly painted and decorated; and, as the present house is not the same in which such marvels as Young Roscius

and Miss Mudie appeared, it will not be out of place to give our readers the description of the Theatre before it was called the Royal :—

THE THEATRE.

May 26, 1806.—Our Theatre, which has long been the admiration of all visitors, will be opened this evening, newly painted and decorated, in a style of such taste and elegance as to eclipse every other provincial theatre, and rival the most superb in the metropolis. Upon entering the pit (where, perhaps, the beauties of the house are seen with the best effect), the eye of the spectator is so fascinated with the elegance of the place, and the brilliance of the colouring, as to hesitate upon which point to dwell, and whether to admire most the embellishments of the stage or the fanciful decorations of the other part of the Theatre. The fronts of the lower tier of boxes are ornamented with festoons of flowers; the fronts of the upper tier are decorated with historical subjects and architectural ornaments; and the front of the gallery terminates with arches filled in with trophies. The whole of the decorations are painted in chiaroe scuro, relieved by green and salmon-coloured grounds, and the mouldings and ornamental parts of the architecture are gilt. The insides of the boxes are appropriately painted and elegantly adorned. The back parts and sides of the gallery are most fancifully decorated in panels of green and marble pilasters, and the ceiling of the house is beautifully illuminated with a large painted circle, surrounded with architectural ornaments. On the stage (as we last week observed) several judicious alterations have taken place, and the whole frontispiece now assumes a light and elegant appearance, classically ornamented with comic and tragic figures, trophies, and other scenic decorations. The scenes and side wings have also been newly painted and beautified, and several new scenes, with a front drop curtain, have likewise been added. The whole has been executed in water colours, (of course the least offensive smell of paint will not be found in the house) from designs by Mr. Dixon, and executed under his direction. The taste and judgment displayed will, no doubt, confirm, and, if possible, increase the celebrity of this eminent artist.

Young Roscius appeared again this season; and the company included, from time to time, all the old favourites. One advertisement will inform the reader of the performances at "the Amphitheatre, Stork Tavern Yard :"—

NEW HARLEQUIN PANTOMIME, NEW BURLETTA, AND COMIC SCOTCH DANCE.

November 24, 1806.—At the Amphitheatre, Stork Tavern Yard, this present Monday Evening, November 24, 1806, and every Evening till further Notice, will be performed a new Burletta, called The Widow's Choice; or, Gout, Puppyism, Penury, and Heart of Oak.

Crumpley, Mr. Freeland; Prattle, Mr. Pyne; Gobble (afterwards Jack Spritsail) Mr. Miller; Gregory Gaukey, Mr. Humphreys; Dr. Slop, Mr. Hawkins; and Constance, Mrs. M'Cartney.

In the course or the Evening will be produced an entirely new Scotch Dance (under the Direction of Mr. Simpson) called the Gretna Blacksmith.

Characters—Messrs. Humphreys, Jervis, Barrett, Hawkins, and Simpson, Miss H. Lettin, Mrs. Freeland, and Miss Johnson.

Tight Rope Dancing, by the inimitable Master Saunders.

After which the following favourite Songs:—"When Vulcan forg'd the Bolts of Jove," Mr. Pryne; "I thought it was queer," Mrs. M'Cartney; Bound 'Prentice to a Waterman," Mr. Miller. There will be presented a pleasing and extensive Variety of unparalleled Feats of Horsemanship, Ennobled by the astonishing Powers of Master Saunders.

The whole to conclude with (first time) a New Comic Pantomime, written and invented by Mr. Barret; the Machinery, &c., executed by Mr. Jervis; and got up under the Direction of Mr. Simpson, called The Mystic Tomb; or, Harlequin and the Genii.

Harlequin, Mr. Simpson; Zany, Mr. Hawkins; Old Harlequin, Mr. Pyne; Genii, Mr. Humphreys; Columbine's Father, Mr. Freeland; Lover, Mr. Hengler; Muffin-man, Mr. Griffiths; Devil, Master Day; Doctor, Mr. Jones; Landlord, Mr. Adams; and Whimsicularumdifoski (the Clown) Mr. Miller; Columbine, Miss Lettin.

Various Novelties are in Preparation, and will be shortly produced.

Fires are constantly kept in the Theatre.

Half-price will be taken on Saturday Evenings only, standing places excepted, to commence at Nine o'clock precisely.

Doors open each Evening at Half-past Six, and the Performance to begin at Half-past Seven.

Places for the Boxes to be taken from Ten till Four o'clock at the Theatre.

Boxes, 3s.; Pit, 2s.; Gallery, 1s.; Standing Places, 6d.

N.B.—Horses broke, &c. Tuition in the Equestrian Art, by Mr. Saunders, Jun.

In January, 1807, that renowned Son of Anak, Daniel Lambert, was exhibiting himself in the town. Of this worthy we have the following curious bit of information given in the advertisement,—"although from his Bulk," the document concludes, "he would be supposed to be precluded from obtaining sporting Knowledge, he is believed to be remarkably well read on the Turf, and can furnish the best Pen of Cocks of any Man in the Kingdom." We suppose that in the year 1807 these facts in the giant's history were considered, and would be an additional attraction with the public.

The theatrical season of 1807 was distinguished by the appearance of Mrs. Siddons, who "was taking leave of her provincial friends previous to her retirement from the stage." She appeared in the character of Isabella in the Fatal Marriage, and her acting is thus described:—

July 27th, 1807.—THEATRE.—On Thursday evening, the celebrated Mrs. Siddons, who is now taking leave of her provincial friends, preparatory to her retiring from the stage, made her appearance at our Theatre in the character of *Isabella*, and was received with the greatest applause. A correspondent has sent us the following remarks on this eminent actress:—"The surprisingly transcendent talents of Mrs. Siddons have been so long and so universally acknowledged, that to praise her would be to descant on the obvious splendour of the sun; yet something we must say to gratify the ebullition of admiration her

sublime performances excited. Perfection in any art is so rarely arrived at that, when seen, it delights by its novelty as much as it does by its excellence. Mrs. Siddons, in the histrionic art, has reached the utmost boundary of perfection: so compleat are her powers of assumption that nature, in all her own native loveliness, appears before us. Her attraction can never lose its force; for however she may cease to be a subject of curiosity, she must still continue to the classic mind 'an ever new delight.' We understand that this is positively her last visit to this county."—In justice to the general performances we cannot but observe, that the plays on Thursday and Friday were filled in a manner that did great credit to the Theatre.

Madame Catalani appeared here on the 19th and 20th of November, 1807, when "her astonishing power of voice drew forth the most rapturous applause."

In an advertisement which appeared on November 2, 1807, announcing the benefit of Mrs. Hodges and her distressed family, the theatre is for the first time called the Theatre Royal. The *Gazette* gives us no information on the subject, and we have to turn to the Journals of the House of Commons to ascertain when our Theatre was made a patent house. From this source we learn that, on February 26, 1807, a petition of "William Sharpe, Esq., James Woolley, Esq., Matthew Boulton, Esq., and several other persons, all of the town of Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, or the vicinity thereof, being proprietors of the Theatre or Play-house in the said town, was presented and read." The petition set forth—That about the year 1792 the only theatre in the town was destroyed by fire; and that it being "expedient to provide another for the amusement of the inhabitants of the said Town, and that of the Nobility and Gentry of the neighbourhood, some of the Petitioners and other Inhabitants, being the Proprietors of the old Theatre, erected on the scite thereof a new and more commodious Theatre or Play-house on an extended scale, at a very great expense: And praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to enable his Majesty, &c., to grant Letters Patent for establishing a Theatre or Play-house in the said Town." The Petition was referred to a Committee, of which Lord Lyttelton, Sir Charles Mordaunt, and Mr. Dugdale were members. On March 23 Sir Charles Mordaunt reported from the Committee that they had examined the matter. The report was presented and leave was given to bring in a bill, and Sir Charles Mordaunt and Mr. Dugdale were ordered to prepare and bring in the bill. The bill was brought in on March 25, and passed the Commons on April 21. It also passed

the Lords with a few amendments, to which the Commons agreed; and on August 1 received the Royal assent by Commission. And thus the New Theatre, Birmingham, became the Theatre Royal.

On the 29th of August the Theatre was opened for a short time by Mr. Crisp, the manager of the Theatres of Worcester and Shrewsbury. On Thursday, September 1, the famous tenor, Incledon, appeared for that night only. On November 7, 1808, the following important theatrical announcement was made :—

THEATRE ROYAL.

Theatricals are to be introduced in this town during part of the winter season, which is certainly most favourable to them, and wherein they are found pleasant, and liberally encouraged in most large places. The inhabitants of Birmingham have a claim, and indeed are entitled to every gratification that can be suggested towards rational amusement. Their days are devoted to praiseworthy exertions, which render the town one of the richest boasts of Britain, and surely it may be expected that a good play (in one of the handsomest Theatres anywhere) will be relished on long winter evenings, provided the actors be respectable, and the whole well regulated. Strongly impressed with these ideas, Mr. Watson ventures to commence a Winter Season.

The Manager is determined to engage the very best performers that can be had. Stoves are erecting to render the lobbies, &c., warm and comfortable, and the most unremitting assiduity shall be exerted on every occasion, to give the amusements of the drama in a correct style, so as to be honoured with approbation, and obtain the sanction of a general public.

At present, it is intended that the performances shall commence early in the next week, with The Rivals and the Midnight Hour.

In 1809 the list of famous performers who appeared at the theatre, included Mr. Stephen Kemble, Master Dourousset, called the "Young Musical Roscius," Mrs. Emery, and Madame Catalani, whose "extraordinary powers of her voice, and wonderful flexibility in executing her bravura songs, the richness of tone, and the beautiful, pathetic, and exquisite manner of her singing 'O questa l'anima,' and other pieces, produced sensations of the liveliest interest on the audience, and called forth the greatest bursts of applause ever witnessed in the Theatre; and, we believe it is the general opinion that she possesses the finest combination of talents, as a singer, ever heard in this country."

By far the most important theatrical event of this decade was the first appearance of Mr. W. C. M'Cready, which, as all the world knows, was made at the Birmingham Theatre, then under the management of his

father. This event took place on Thursday, June 7, 1810, and is thus recorded :—

THEATRE ROYAL.

June 11, 1810.—The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet was brought forward at our Theatre on Thursday last, for the purpose of introducing a young candidate not 18 years of age (Mr. William M'Cready) to the stage, from whose performance we have no hesitation in predicting his future fame and prosperity; indeed, we have never witnessed a better first appearance. He looked the character admirably; the elegance of his figure, the expression of his countenance, and the very great ease of his deportment, united in forming a perfect representation of what Romeo should exactly appear. He received the most encouraging and flattering applause through the first four acts, and at his dying scene there were several distinct peals, testifying surprise and the highest admiration of talents which have been seldom equalled, if ever surpassed. Mrs. Young seemed much interested, and exerted herself with the happiest effect; we have never seen her to more advantage. The whole play merited and obtained the warmest plaudits, particularly the Friar, Mercutio, The Prince, and The Nurse. It is to be repeated this evening, with the grand Melodrama of Valentine and Orson, in which Mr. Conway and Mr. Betterton perform.

During the season he appeared in Lothair in the play of Adelgitha, Young Norval, several times as Romeo, Zanga in Dr. Young's tragedy of Revenge, and other first-class parts, and thus commenced that long and successful career in a profession to which he has done so much honour, and earned a fame scarcely second to any of the great stars in the dramatic firmament. During the same season we had that "darling child of whim and fun," Mr. Munden, Mr. Betterton, Mr. Harley, Mr. Fawcett, Mr. Conway, Mrs. Jordan, and Mrs. Egerton. In the season of 1811 the young Mr. M'Cready was one of the principal attractions, and fully confirmed the success which he had already won. He now appeared in Hamlet, in Daran in the Exile, and a round of characters which proved the power and versatility of the young actor. A correspondent thus describes him and the company at the time :—

TO THE PRINTER.

November 25, 1811.—Sir,—On Monday evening last I was induced to visit your Theatre to see that admirable production of our immortal bard, Romeo and Juliet, which was performed with a regularity, precision, and I may say, excellence that surprised me to witness in a provincial Theatre. Miss Smith's Juliet evinced powers of the most superior kind, either to insinuate, delight, or terrify, as the various scenes required, and she was most ably supported with the Romeo of Mr. William M'Cready. Never was appearance better calculated to personate the youthful hero, and his last scene must have stamped him an Actor in the opinion of the severest critic; Mercutio, Capulet, the Friar, Nurse, and, indeed, all the characters were most respectably sustained. In the afterpiece Mrs. Stewart gave the songs of Margaretta with a taste and sweetness that afforded general satisfaction,

and the applause at the dropping of the curtain testified the unqualified approbation of the audience, which were numerous enough to send the Manager home to reflect that the entire receipt of the night was not sufficient to discharge one half of the expences attending the performance of the evening. How lamentable that a man, indefatigable in the service of the public, who is proverbial for obtaining the greatest novelties, who is ever ready to assist all charitable institutions, and zealous to gratify the town at any expence with the first of every thing! How lamentable it is, that such a Caterer and such a Theatre should be neglected and deserted! Dramatic compositions have ever been esteemed among the greatest productions of the human genius, and the acting of them has, by some of the wisest and best men in all ages, been countenanced as highly serviceable to the cause of virtue. Example is the strongest manner of enforcing precept, and a stage representation (rightly conducted) the best picture of nature. What pleasure so rational as that proceeding from a well written and well acted Tragedy or Comedy, where the mind may have at once improvement and delight? The spirit, liberality, and good sense that pervades the inhabitants of Birmingham, and bring them forward on all meritorious occasions, it is hoped will not lie dormant on so interesting a subject. These observations are offered with great deference and the purest motives by a Townsman and

AN ENCOURAGER OF THE ARTS.

There were the usual concerts, exhibition of panoramas, and other sources of amusement to satisfy and to gratify the varied tastes of the people.

§ 5. MANNERS, CUSTOMS, ETC.

Perhaps nothing more forcibly illustrates the progress which this country has made in religion and civilization than the change which, in a comparatively few years, has been made in our draconic code of criminal law. Death was the punishment for almost every crime. The same measure was meted out for stealing a loaf to satisfy the cravings of hunger, and for the most cold-blooded murder. In cases of treason a few refinements of cruelty were added which gave to that offence "a bad preëminence" in our annals. At the Spring Assizes, held at Warwick, in March, 1802, twenty persons were condemned to death, not one of whom had committed murder. Here is the melancholy record of this wholesale condemnation :—

April 5, 1802.—The Assizes for this County ended at Warwick on Thursday, when sentence of death was passed on the following twenty prisoners, viz., E. Allen, J. Hill, B. Baker, J. Carter, and J. Grove, for forgeries on the Bank of England; J. Manning, J. Parkes, and Sam. Bryan, for a burglary at Meriden; J. Woolley, G. Harlam, and Sarah Sheppard, for burglaries in this town; J. Mills and S. Frost, for sheep stealing; B. Davies, *alias* Garratt, and T. Green, for horse-stealing; Phœbe Trueman, for shop-lifting; and J.

Peace, W. Lane, T. Moore, and F. Linney, for forgery. Peace, Lane, Davis, Green, Grove, Trueman, Mills, Woolley, Harlam, Sheppard, and Frost, are reprieved, and the nine others left for execution, which, we understand, will take place on Washwood Heath, near this town.

On April 19, Washwood Heath, near this town, was the scene of this hideous spectacle. On that day eight of the nine, viz. :—E. Allen, B. Baker, J. Hill, J. Carter, S. Bryan, J. Parkes, T. Moore, and F. Linney, were hanged for forgery on the Bank of England. It is said that 100,000 persons assembled on the occasion.

April 26, 1802.—On Monday the eight unfortunate men mentioned in our last were executed on a drop, purposely erected on Washwood Heath, near this town. They left Warwick about eight o'clock in the morning, and were escorted to Stonebridge by Lord Aylesford's troop of Warwickshire Yeomanry, and from thence to their place of suffering by the troop of H. Legge, Esq., where they arrived about two o'clock, and were resigned to the care of three troops of the King's Dragoon Guards who had previously encircled the drop. The men spent about two hours in prayer and other preparations, when the drop fell, and they were launched into eternity. After hanging the usual time, their bodies were cut down and delivered to their friends. They all acknowledged the justice of their sentence but one (Edward Allen), who denied to the last having been guilty of the crime for which he suffered, but acknowledged others he had been concerned in of capital import. The most orderly and peaceable conduct was observed by the immense concourse of people (supposed to be not less than 100,000) that had collected together from every place within 20 miles, to be witnesses of this awful scene; and we sincerely trust that such may be the effect produced upon the minds of the spectators, that we may never again have to record a similar event.

The case of Allen, who died protesting his innocence, led to the following correspondence :—

To the Printers of Aris's Birmingham Gazette.

April 26, 1802.—Gentlemen,—Edward Allen, one of the unfortunate Men who suffered on Washwood Heath on Monday last, for a forgery on the Bank of England, having persisted in his Innocence to the last, and accused me of being his Murderer, I think it a justice due to myself to state to the Public, through the medium of your Paper, the Circumstances which led to his Detection and Conviction, and to leave them to decide how far Allen was justified in the rash Assertion he has made. Allen had long been known to be an extensive Dealer in Forged Bank of England Notes. This appeared from the confession of Atkinson and another, who lately suffered at Nottingham for the Utterance of Forged Bank Notes they had purchased of him, and from the Confession of other unfortunate Persons, who, by means of Notes purchased from Allen, had forfeited their Lives. He was also suspected to be a principal Fabricator of such Notes; and the Bank of England, anxious to detect the Fabricator as the Root of the Evil, I was directed, as their Agent, to employ two Men, of the Names of Wildsmith and Millington, in the Detection of Allen. Accordingly, on the 28th of September last, Ten Guineas in Notes, principally of the Nottingham, Leicester, and Hinckley Banks, were delivered to Wild-

smith for the purpose of buying Forged Notes of Allen in order to his Detection, the Particulars of each such Notes being first taken by me, and a private Mark written on each in order to identify them again. On the 29th of September Wildsmith and Millington, as appears by their Evidence, with two of these marked Notes, purchased of Allen four Forged One Pound Bank of England Notes, and one Forged One Guinea Pontefract Bank Note, which Wildsmith immediately brought to my House, leaving Millington in the mean time watching Allen's House, to see that no Person went in or out. I at this time was from Home, but Wildsmith found me out, and informed me of his having purchased the Forged Notes in Question from Allen, and desired the Assistance of a Constable to apprehend him. Mr. Evans, the Constable, was, therefore, called upon, who went with Wildsmith and myself to Allen's House, and in going thither Wildsmith gave to me, in Mr. Evans's Presence, the five Notes he had purchased of Allen. On entering Allen's House, Allen produced two Notes and a Guinea, which he threw on the Table in Evans's Presence, and told Wildsmith to take his Notes and Money again, for that he should not have the Dog nor any Thing else. Mr. Evans took possession of the Notes, and also of a great Quantity of Counterfeit Shillings, edged and scored ready for Colouring, and some Printing Ink, which he found in Allen's House. He likewise apprehended Allen. On my examining, with Mr. Evans, the Notes which Wildsmith and Millington had purchased of Allen, I found them to be of the new Sort, with waving lines. They were the first of the kind which I had ever seen.

This was the Substance of the Evidence given before Mr. Hicks, the Magistrate, respecting the purchasing of the Forged Notes; and Allen's Defence, before the same Magistrate, was that he had never sold the Forged Notes in Question to Wildsmith or Millington; that the Guinea they had given him for the Dog, and the two marked Notes found upon him, they had left with him as they were going to a Bawdy House. Upon this Evidence he was committed, and the same Kind of Evidence being given against him upon his Trial, and the two Guinea Notes paid him by Wildsmith for the Forged Notes, and found upon Allen by Mr. Evans, and the Forged Notes purchased of Allen by Wildsmith being produced and identified, he was convicted. Allen's Defence upon his Trial was the same as before the Magistrate, and he called no Evidence in support of it.

Such being the Facts of his Case, I know not upon what Grounds he could feel himself justified in the harsh Expressions he has used towards me. In endeavouring to detect him by the means before mentioned, I did no more than what I considered was my Duty to do as an Agent of the Bank; and in Proof that the Statement of Facts here given is correct, and such as appeared upon his first Examination before the Magistrate, and upon his Trial, I appeal to Mr. Hicks, the Magistrate who committed him, to the Court and Jury who tried him, and to the Byestanders who heard his Trial. The only Evidence I gave against Allen was that the Notes found upon him by Evans were two of the Notes Wildsmith had received from me, and that the Forged Notes produced against Allen on his Trial were the four Forged Bank of England Notes Wildsmith delivered to me, and of these facts not a doubt was raised. If, therefore, Allen was wrongfully accused in any Thing, it must be by Wildsmith and Millington; but I believe no Person who heard his Trial entertains the least Doubt of his Guilt; and it seems to be too much to

suppose, merely because Allen had been hardy enough to deny his Guilt, that Wildsmith or Millington could be so wicked and profligate as to perjure themselves merely for the Purpose of taking away Allen's Life, if he were innocent, especially as they had no Enmity towards him, nor any Inducement to do it.

I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient,

WM. SPURRIER.

I Think it my Duty to state that the Evidence given before me previous to Allen's Commitment, as stated above by Mr. Spurrier, I believe to be correct; and Millington and Wildsmith's Evidence was given in the most positive Manner.

WM. HICKS.

Our poetic advertising tailor of this period was Mr. J. Allin, whom we have previously met in the Hay-market. He had now removed to New Street; a specimen or two of his advertisements will suffice :—

April 30, 1804.—J. Allin, Draper, Tailor, and Salesman, at his Cheap Clothes and York Shoe Warehouse, the Sign of the Flag, opposite the Top of New Street, Birmingham.

. . . . . .

I say—Stop ! ! !
With the best of my Neighbours at BONY I'll pop.
Buonaparte, that fierce tyrant, is not yet come over,
Tho' nightly expected to land men at Dover !—
JOHNNY BULL'S Essex calves are preparing to meet him,
With loud peals of cannon so sweetly to greet him ;
The old bulls with pikes will force down the joke,
And cram him with lead pills, to make him loud croak.
A change from frog-feeding, so light of digestion,
For now all slight food must be out of the question.
The ladies, believe me, are all expectation
To see this sad being, who threatens the nation.
Each youth, with light heart, as he shoulders his gun,
Hopes to pop at the Frenchman, and calls it great fun.
E'en the women, poor souls ! talk of sticks and of stones,
To belabour the Monsieurs, and batter their bones.
Little children, old maids, all promise to kick, scratch and bite ;
So all will be ready and willing to fight.
The old men and priests are to mind all the cattle,
And console the fair sex, while their loves are in battle.
Their courage so great—we fear no invasion.
But eagerly look for the promis'd occasion ;
So that Monsieur may come as soon as he can,
For we are all ready to act the brave man.
Then come Buonaparté as soon as you like,
And you shall immediately sup off a pike ;
Red-hot balls for a garnish, to make it the better :
And thus I conclude my rhymatical letter.

This was John Allin's pride :—

Dec. 31, 1804—

John Allin I'm called—at the Grand Fancy Warehouse ;
But the Name of all Names, of which I feel Pride,
Is that which I'm called by my Customers many,
And that is—for both High and Low I provide.

An attempt was made in 1806 to remove a few troublesome customers, of which we are not yet quite relieved :—

January 27th, 1806.—We are truly glad to find that the laws passed with a view to more regularity in this populous town and neighbourhood, are now likely to be strictly enforced ; and that none should be taken by surprise or plead ignorance, a short sketch of the laws and rules respecting waggoners, carmen, coachmen, and others are published, both by an advertisement and by handbills. The great irregularity in driving has long been a subject of complaint ; we trust now it will for ever cease.

The *rule of the road* is a paradox quite,
As you drive, ride, or walk it along,
If you go to the *left*, you are sure to go *right*,
But if you go *right*, you go *wrong*.

Advertisements like the following still appeared :—

COCKING.

May 15, 1809.—A Main of Cocks will be fought at the new Pit in Smallbrook-street, Birmingham, on Thursday, the 25th of May, and the two following days, between the Gentlemen of Warwickshire and the Gentlemen of Worcestershire ; to weigh 51 Cocks each for five Guineas a Battle and one Hundred Guineas the Main. A pair of Shakes to fight for twenty Guineas on Saturday.

Twist, for Warwickshire ; Willets, for Worcestershire.

A Pair of Cocks will be on the Sod precisely at Twelve o'clock.

One cruel sport of the time was very near its end. Bull-baiting was doomed, and the publication of the following opinion of the highest legal authority, only indicates the change which was taking place in the public mind on this subject. It was now considered a "barbarous and cruel sport" by almost all who could influence public opinion so as to act on the legislature—and therefore its days were numbered :—

February 4th, 1811.—BULL-BAITING.—A correspondent informs us that the Attorney-General has given his opinion that bull-baiting in the public highway, to the hindrance of business, is not at all tolerated by law, and that persons concerned therein are liable to indictment for a nuisance. The friends of humanity will rejoice in this decision, which we hope may operate as a check to the continuation of this barbarous and brutal sport.

Its end was also hastened by such a scene as is described in the following paragraph :—

September 2, 1811.—BULL-BAITING.—We trust the advocates for this brutal pastime will relinquish their favourite sport, when they hear of the dreadful catastrophe which lately took place at Chapel Wake, in this town ; where a fine animal having been tormented for some time, broke from his confinement, and in this irritated state arrived in Coleshill Street, where he tossed and trampled upon every person within his reach. One child was killed upon the spot, and several persons were so dreadfully maimed and bruised, that very little hopes are entertained of their recovery.

And this occurred in Birmingham only half a century ago ! Surely the eulogists of the past, and the maligners of the present age, will admit that we have made some improvement in the sports of our people.

THE POET FREETH.

Few men occupied a more notable position in Old Birmingham than John Freeth—or, as he was invariably called, Poet Freeth. Notwithstanding his popularity (and this is proved by the large number of editions of his "Political Songster" which were published) the materials for his biography are very slight. We know that he was born in the year 1731 ; that he kept a tavern at the corner of Lease Lane and Bell Street ; that he wrote and sung and published a very large number of songs ; that he was one of the group in John Ecstein's famous picture of Birmingham Men ; a member of the "Jacobin Club ;" one of the "Twelve Apostles," as they were called by their political opponents ; and that he died September 29, 1808, at the good old age of 77. These facts are all that are known of the man, except what we gather from his poems. In the preface to his collected works, entitled "The Political Songster ; or, a Touch on the Times, on Various Subjects, and adapted to common Tunes," he thus lets us into the secret of their composition. "It is," he says, "a very common and not an untrue saying, that every man has his hobby-horse. Sometimes, indeed, it is a profitable one ; more frequently it is otherwise. My hobby-horse and practice for thirty years past* have been to write songs upon the occurrence of remarkable events, and nature having supplied me with a voice somewhat suitable to my style of compositions to sing them also, while their subjects were

* This was written in 1783.

fresh upon every man's mind, and being a publican, this faculty, or rather *knack*, of singing my own songs, has been profitable to me. It has in an evening crowded my house with customers, and led me to friendships which I might not otherwise have experienced. Success naturally encouraged me to pursue the trade of *ballad-making*, for without it, it is not probable I should have written a tenth part of what this volume contains."

Thus inspired by pleasure, friendship, and profit, the genial-hearted publican-poet sang about almost everything under the sun. From odes for thanksgiving days to Prescot's famous breeches—from royal celebrations to paviours—from the Gold Coin Act to Tutania buckles—from the Old King's Ghost to Seven Devils in the Taylor—from Parliament Wake to Birmingham Ale-tasters, all subjects were alike acceptable, and there was nothing too lofty nor too lowly for this prolific and self-contented singer. His verses sing because they are always written to some "common tune," but there was little poetry in John Freeth. He maintains a curious level; rarely, if ever, rising in his flight, and rarely, if ever, reaching the royal demesne of lyrical power, fancy, or pathos. He was not one of those who saw "the light that never was on sea or shore"; the "vision and the faculty divine" were not bestowed upon him. But he had a keen eye for the life of a town and of a nation. All public events, whether of local or national importance, attracted him, and he threw them into a lilting kind of verse, which, doubtless, he sung to the admiration and delight of his parlour audiences. One critic says, "many of Freeth's published effusions possess the merit and sterling animus peculiar to Dibdin's popular songs, whose style they closely resemble."* This is certainly the very highest praise which a friendly pen could write; and no Birmingham man could or ought to be other than friendly to Freeth. The specimens already given of his powers in the Record of the Book Club and the Canal Navigation show what an interest he took in all that concerned the progress and well-being of the town; and his volume affords many vivid illustrations of old Birmingham life. He is the rhyming chronicler, the ballad-maker of his day; and gives us rare glimpses of the life, the manners, and customs of the times

* The Buildings of Birmingham, Past and Present. (Edited by Saml. Timmins.)

in which he lived. He celebrates all the sports, even to cock-fighting, bull-baiting, and pugilism ; and in his rhymes we have many of the characteristics of our old town preserved for us—characteristics which the historian passes over, or only cursorily alludes to. One or two of these illustrative songs may be very appropriately quoted here. Here is the poetic record of the duties of an officer now no more :—

BIRMINGHAM ALE TASTERS.

Tune—*How happy a State does a Miller possess.*

Of all civil officers annually chose,
There's none in the kingdom equal to those
Whose Duty requires little more than to rove,
And taste at their pleasure what ENGLISHMEN love.

From BORDESLEY to HOCKLEY our PROVINCE extends ;
I wish we had time to address all our friends ;
Of Houses all free-cost to visit 'tis clear,
The number is more than are days in the year.

We carry no TRUNCHEONS our power to show,
With Government matters have nothing to do ;
We drink with the Common, yet rank with the best,
And like ALDERMEN live at a Low BAILIFF'S feast.

Our good BROTHER OFFICERS strangers must be,
When beating our rounds, to the pleasures we see ;
From Office of CONSTABLE troubles ensue,
But that of a TASTER is joy the year through.

For when upon Duty, as Custom has taught,
We call for a TANKARD, 'tis instantly brought ;
And how pleasing it is for a LANDLORD to say,
"You're welcome, kind Sirs,—there is nothing to pay."

We visit the MARKETS and traverse the STREETS,
Our CHIEF to assist in adjusting the Weights ;
And wish 'twere the practice in all kinds of Sales
To down with the STEELYARDS and up with the SCALES.

The Butchers may throw out their MARROW-BONE spite,
But reason informs us 'tis but the right ;
For JUSTICE, relying on Truth as her guide,
When pictur'd, has always the Scales by her side.

Fill a Bumper to TRADE, 'tis the TASTER'S request ;
With plenty may Britain for ever be blest ;
Where DISCORD abounds may true friendship commence,
And BIRMINGHAM "flourish a thousand years hence."

In 1788, the following lines addressed to Freeth were published. The "No Matter Who" was our old friend Joseph Weston, who edited Mrs. Pickering's poems.

Dec. 19, 1788.

LINES *addressed to* POET FREETH.

Ævo rarissima nostro
Simplicitas.—OVID.

Let bookish Bards, whom Scholars call divine,
With classic Buckram stiffen every Line;
Let Laureate WARTON, in the newest Modes,
Carve out those splendid Trifles, Birth Day Odes;
Proceed, dear FREETH, to chaunt thy native Lay,
Sweet as the Thrush that whistles on the spray.
I hate the dull, cold progeny of Art;
Mine be the sprightly Offspring of the Heart!
Mine be the Strain that flows from Nature's Tongue,
The Ploughman's Carol, and the Milkmaid's Song!
I love the Muse in Robes of Country Brown,
Not flaunting like a Lady of the Town.
I hate to see Parnassian Waters tost,
And in forc'd Curves elaborately lost.
Mine be the Stream that no Restriction knows,
But down its pebbly Channel gently flows.
What Magic sweet Simplicity displays!
Thy Manners, Freeth, are artless as thy Lays:
Averse to Satire, Enemy to Strife,
No Rancour stains thy Paper or thy Life.
All Friends to native Wit and social Glee,
Shall charge a sparkling Glass, and fill a pipe to thee.

NO MATTER WHO.

The Volunteers of the present time will not object to Freeth's description of their brethren "when George the Third was King."

BIRMINGHAM VOLUNTEERS.

Tune—*Jolly Mortals.*

Jolly Sons of Mirth and Spirit,
Strangers known to Cares and Fears;
If you glory would inherit,
Join the noble VOLUNTEERS.

Fife and Drum afford enjoyment;
And what trade so brisk appears
As that spirited employment,
Beating up the VOLUNTEERS.

Mark the youths parading yonder,
Scarcely one turn'd sixteen years;
Cursing fate because they're under
Standard proof for VOLUNTEERS.

LADS, as tight as coat can cover,
Birmingham for Service rears;
Not a TOWN from TWEED to DOVER
Sends the King more VOLUNTEERS.

Scorning in the cause to waver,
Sworn to go where glory steers,
FORTUNE will for ever favour
All true-hearted VOLUNTEERS.

Our next quotation is in a different vein. The place to which the poet invites his fellow-townsmen has passed away with all its glories. Its noble walks beneath stately trees, its long lines of variegated lamps, its alcoves and bowers, its bands, its singers and dancers, its pyrotechnic displays, are now no more. The song writer preserves the memory of the place which was once the favourite resort of thousands, and the scene of many and frequent gay and festive gatherings. The modern growth of the town has swept away Vauxhall along with so many other things even better, perhaps, than this once fashionable place of amusement.

INVITATION TO VAUXHALL GARDENS.

Soft Spring, the proclaimer of rural Delights,
Again to the sweet native Bowers invites;
From Toil to relax, and enjoy the fresh air.
All ye who the peaceful amusements would share,
When Mirth gives the Summons to honour the call,
Make much of the joy-giving hours at VAUXHALL.

When the evening is fine, how enlivening the Scene,
The walks to parade, or to trip o'er the green;
No troubles to harass, no fears to alarm,
The mind sits at ease when there's Music to charm;
Then quickly away, to the regions resort,
Which Pleasure makes choice of for keeping her Court.

The TRADESMAN who's got a few moments to spare,
Finds here a Refreshment to solace his care;
The Artist will often his labours throw by,
The sweet rural pastime awhile to enjoy;
For Genius, whose Sons oft incline to be gay,
Would droop if there was not a Season to play.

Where all appears charming and graced by the Fair,
What gardens for splendour with these can compare?
Where Nature, embellish'd with choice strokes of Art,
The Mind to regale does her Beauties impart,
And Mirth and good Fellowship keep up the Ball,
What more would a Heart wish to find at Vauxhall?

Birmingham buckles were at this time one of the staple manufactures of the town, and among these articles of fashion the Tutania buckles held a prominent place. Our poet, who sings of royal birthdays, will also sing of the ornaments of a shoe. It goes to the tune of "Jolly Mortals, fill your glasses," and these are the last three verses :—

BUCKLES fashion'd are by many;
Song composing rests with few;
Nature has a genius stampt him
That compleatly both can do.

All to one good soul must truckle;
He that does the rest eclipse,
Makes a SONG and forms a BUCKLE,
Whilst a PIPE'S between his LIPS.

Now farewell to vain disputing,
Of the evening make the most;
FRIENDSHIP, FREEDOM, TRADE, and TUTIN,
ROUND the BOARD shall be the TOAST.

In reference to the name Tutin in this song Freeth says in a note he was "The manufacturer of the metal called TUTANIA—a friendly, cheerful companion, and exceedingly fond of a pipe." To the last impeachment the poet might also have pleaded guilty.

Freeth has another claim to our respect; he believed in local patriotism. To him Birmingham town and Birmingham men were the best in the world. It is probable that in these more cosmopolitan days this will be looked upon as a defect of character—a narrowness and a limitation. Still we like him all the better for it; for we share with him the same belief. In his song, "The General Election," the following verse shows that whatever changes may have taken place since he wrote, the people are still in one notable respect like the men of old.

Warwickshire Lads, to their honour be't said,
Independence have ever supported;
Ne'er may so noble a cause be betray'd,
Or its interest ever deserted:

The illustration, entitled "Birmingham Men of the Last Century," is a reduced copy of Eckstein's painting of the once famous "twelve" who used to meet at "Poet Freeth's," and are memorable examples of the Birmingham men of the 18th century. A MS. memorandum is attached to the back of the painting, which affords the following information:—"This Picture is the common property of the Twelve following Gentlemen, represented on the reverse, to be disposed of at all times as a majority of them shall think proper, and to be the sole property of the survivor. James Sketchly, John Freeth, John Mills, James Murray, Joseph Blunt, Richard Webster, Joseph Fearon, Jeremia Vaux, Samuel Toy, John Collard, James Bisset, John Wilkes. The Picture painted by John Eckstein, 1792."

The men whose faces have thus been preserved for us were all Liberals in politics, and their number caused them to be designated by their political opponents "The Twelve Apostles." In our explanation of the picture we commence at the left hand, taking them in regular order as they are arranged round the table:—

1.—Mr. James Murray, a Linen and Woollen Draper. Mr. Murray resided in Moor Street, was a Member of the Antiquarian Society of Scotland, and was most generally known by the name or title of "Cheap John." He emigrated to America, to which place his two Sons and two Daughters soon afterwards followed him.

2.—Mr. John Wilkes, a Cheese Factor, corner of Carr's Lane and High Street, and subsequently held a commission as Captain in the Militia.

3.—Mr. John Freeth.—A separate chapter of this book is devoted to "Poet Freeth" and his works.

4.—Mr. Richard Webster, Brass Founder, Moor Street, left no issue.

5.—Mr. Jeremia Vaux, Surgeon, Moor Street, Medical Officer to the Associated Militia of the period, held a very high position in the town as a professional man, being both clever and experienced. He was a most inveterate snuff taker.

6.—Mr. John Collard was a Hatter and Tailor in High Street, and is described as "being very fond of discussion." He retired from business, and lived in a "pretty sylvan cottage near the Bell and Cuckoo, on the Sutton Road." Here he wrote his works, the "Essentials of Logic," the "Praxis of Logic," and "other elaborate treatises." A Mezzotint portrait of Mr. Collard was published in 1808 from a picture by Lonsdale. His books obtained considerable reputation at the time, and are not quite forgotten at the present day.

7.—Mr. John Miles, Edgbaston Street, Patent Lamp Manufacturer, whose business was subsequently carried on by Mr. Blakeway.

8.—Mr. Samuel Toy, Newhall Street, Steel Toy Manufacturer, was a man possessing very buoyant spirits, and an inexhaustible fund of wit, humour, and satire. In after life he was reduced in circumstances, and became Landlord of the Mitre Inn, where he died after a very brief illness, although to a gentleman still living, he boasted a short time before his death of not remembering having ever been under the hands of a Medical Man.

9.—Mr. James Bisset.—Some information about this member of the "Twelve" will be found at page 120 of this volume, and a more detailed record of his life and works will be given in the Appendix.

10.—Mr. Joseph Fearon, Tin Merchant, Digbeth, was constable of the town for many years, and considered the leading speaker of the Jacobin Club, being a most fluent and clever orator. Eckstein has represented Mr. Fearon in the act of addressing his Confrères. He was known by the sobriquet of Lord North, from his advocacy of that Stateman's principles and conduct in connection with the American war. His constant theme, whenever possible to introduce the subject, was his favourite idea of appealing to appointed Committees of Arbitration in lieu of the expensive and uncertain process of Law Suits, an opinion which was very determinedly maintained by the late Silk Buckingham, Esq. Mr. Fearon left one Son.

11.—Mr. James Sketchly, Moor Street, Auctioneer, Appraiser, and Valuer. He was, by several years, the Senior Member of the Club.

12.—Mr. Joseph Blunt, Brazier, High Street. He left two Sons.

BIRMINGHAM MEN OF THE LAST CENTURY.

From a fine Picture in the possession of Augustus Houghton, Esq.

The free *Sons of Trade*, by unity sway'd,
Display such a powerful connexion;
When contests arise, 'tis the BIRMINGHAM BOYS
That always can crown an *Election*.

In 1792 John Eckstein painted the well-known picture of the twelve friends who met nightly at Freeth's house. The original is now in the possession of Mr. Dugdale Houghton; and the following MS. memorandum is attached at the back of the painting :—"This picture is the common property of the twelve following gentlemen represented on the reverse, to be disposed of at all times as a majority of them shall think proper, and to be the sole property of the survivor: James Sketchley, John Freeth, John Miles, James Murray, Joseph Blunt, Richard Webster, Joseph Fearon, Jeremiah Vaux, Samuel Toy, John Collard, James Bisset, John Wilkes." Mr. Underwood has published a lithograph copy of this picture in the book on "Birmingham Buildings," from which we have already quoted. The number of the sitters, of course, originated one of the nicknames applied to this early convivial club. In consequence of the politics of Freeth and his friends, Mr. Timmins tells us that "at a tavern in Peck Lane, kept by Joe Lindon, over the fire-place in the room in which the opposite or Tory party were in the habit of assembling, was printed, in large clear type, '*No Jocobin admitted here.*'" The same writer also tells the following curious anecdote of James Bisset, one of these twelve. "One evening, whilst living in New Street, and suffering most acutely from an attack of gout, two of the club, agreeably to a premeditated plan, entered his sitting room disguised as highwaymen, and, well armed, roughly demanded his money; and, as was expected, Mr. Bisset resisted, and, forgetting his gout, actually chased the supposed robbers to Freeth's house in Bell Street, where the practical joke became at once apparent, and, strange to say, he never again suffered from the same excruciating complaint, to which he had for a long time previously been a martyr." The people were fond of fun in those days.

Freeth gives us a picture of Birmingham in 1776, which is more literal than poetical. He calls it

BIRMINGHAM TRANQUILLITY, 1776.

Tune—*The Miller of Mansfield.*

In England's fair capital, every year,
A tumult is raised about choosing Lord Mayor;
Each party engages, with fury and spleen,
And nothing but strife and contention is seen.

Ye wrangling old cits, let me beg you'd look down,
And copy from Birmingham's peaceable town,
Where souls sixty thousand or more you may view,
No justice dwells here, and but constables two.

In no place besides that's so populous grown,
Was ever less noise or disturbances known:
All hands find employment, and when their work's done,
Are happy as any souls under the sun.

With hammer and file time is carefully beat,
For such is the music of every street;
The anvil's sharp sound is the artist's delight,
And stamps, lathes, and presses in concert unite.

Let cities and boroughs for contests prepare,
In choosing of sheriffs, recorder, or mayor,
With most kinds of titles they've nothing to do,
Nor discord in choosing of officers shew.

The envy and hatred elections bring on,
Their hearty intention is always to shun;
No polling, no scratching, no scrutinies rise,—
Who friendship esteem must such measures despise.

To far distant climes doth her commerce extend;
Her channels of traffic admit of no end;
And Birmingham, whilst there is trade in the land,
In brightest invention unrivalled shall stand.

We wonder what he would have said had he lived through the contest which ended in 1832, and some of the elections which followed the passing of the Reform Bill! One of the noblest of our townsfolk's characteristics has descended to us from the past. The charity of our forefathers has proved an example which we have happily followed to the present time; and its glory has suffered no diminution or soil in our hands. In a poem on the Birmingham Overseers, Freeth says—

Whilst friendship I boast of, and truth is my guide,
Of Birmingham's welfare to sing is my pride;
Nor is there a town, if we search the land o'er,
That pays a more decent regard to the poor.

He concludes his poem in a different metre. The last verse tells us of the changes which were then taking place in the appearance of the town, and the poet's mind enlarges with the prospect.

BIRMINGHAM must (whose fame shall sing)
Second in size to LONDON be ;
Every month fresh houses spring,
Every year new streets we see ;
Whilst health remains,
And plenty reigns,
We'll drink in a bumper of hearty cheer,
" Of friendship the lover,
And all the world over,
To every worthy OVERSEER !"

Thus through a long and useful life our good old song-writer invoked his muse. She was not a haughty dame, sandalled and buskined, but a light-hearted, light-footed, tripping little goddess, fond of social life, of homely people, and homely habits. In his songs are preserved many of the habits, manners, and customs of old Birmingham ; and among the men of whom we ought to think with pride, and whose names ought to be precious to us, John Freeth holds a high and honourable place. As we have previously said, he died at the ripe age of 77. His death is thus recorded in the *Gazette* :—

Oct. 3, 1808.—On Thursday, in the 78th year of his age, Mr. John Freeth, of this town, commonly called the Poet Freeth, a facetious bard of nature, forty-eight years proprietor of Freeth's Coffee-house, Bell-street, a house much frequented by strangers as well as the inhabitants, where the " Poet " used every evening to delight a large company with original songs, composed from subjects of a public nature, replete with wit and humour—

" Who, when good news is brought to town,
Immediately to work sits down,
And business fairly to go through,
Writes songs, finds tunes, and sings them too."

His morals were unsullied, and his manner unaffected. Formed to enliven the social circle, possessing wit without acrimony, and independence of mind without pride, he was beloved by his friends, courted by strangers, and respected by all. The harmless, yet pointed sallies of his muse, will be remembered with pleasing pain by thousands who admired his talents and revere his virtues.

Several contemporary portraits of Poet Freeth have been preserved. One is in the hands of Mr. S. Timmins, and another, representing the Poet as a comparatively young man, was presented to him, and in a scroll in his hand are the following lines :—

"By Gen'rous Subscription this Piece was placed here;
Had the Bard Gave the order himself,
The World at the Picture not only would stare,
But ask how he came by the Pelf."

The poet left behind him a family of two sons and eight daughters. He was buried in the Old Meeting House burial ground; and on his tombstone are engraved the following lines :—

"Free and easy through life 'twas his wish to proceed,
Good men he revered, whatever their creed;
His pride was a sociable evening to spend,
For no man loved better his pipe and his friend."

In such genial words we take leave of one of the most genial and most notable of Birmingham men of the last century.

MR. J. MORFITT, AND HIS ACCOUNT OF BIRMINGHAM.

The opening of the nineteenth century was distinguished by the publication of two works which afford a great deal of information on the condition of the town and the people. We have already examined Bisset's Survey, and we now turn to the more instructive letters of Mr. Morfitt. Like so many who have left a name behind them which Birmingham people, at least, will not willingly let die, he was not a native of the town. But with that "predilection for Birmingham entertained by every denomination of visitant," having once come to the place he made it his home; and when he wrote his own impressions of the town and its people, he had lived in it long enough "to see it in all points of view, in prosperity and adversity, in sunshine and in storms." And though, he says, "I may not, perhaps, be so accurate as if indigenous, I am more likely to be impartial." At all events, in his pages we have the advantage of seeing our old town and our fathers as they were seen by one not a "native and to the manner born."

Mr. J. Morfitt was a barrister-at-law, and lived in St. Paul's Square. His name is in Bisset's "Magnificent Directory." in Plate N, and appears in a scroll of miscellaneous professions. This was published in 1800, two years before he wrote his first letter on the town. That he had lived long enough in the town to "see it in all points of view,"

is evident from the fact that eleven years before, or in 1791, he published an "Abstract of all the Acts of Parliament that relate to the Town of Birmingham and Hamlet of Deritend, alphabetically arranged, with a correct Index. The whole expressly calculated for understanding with Ease, and finding with Readiness, the contents of no less than Eleven voluminous local Statutes, some of which are of great Scarcity, and all of great Importance." His motto to this useful work is "Brevis esse laboro." Mr. Morfitt also published an abtract of several Acts respecting the Court of Requests in this town. And in the year 1794 he published a valuable little work on Birmingham.

In 1805 Mr. J. S. Pratt published three large octavo volumes containing not only his own compositions, but the contributions of friends, both in prose and verse. This work appeared with the following title:—"Harvest Home: consisting of Supplementary Gleanings, original Dramas and Poems, Contributions of Literary Friends, and select Republications, including Sympathy, a Poem, revised, corrected, and enlarged from the eighth edition." In the first of these volumes appear, under the head "Warwickshire Station," not only Mr. Morfitt's letters, but the account of the Gleaner's own observations during his visits to the town. Thus we have a rather complete, and, tested by other evidence, a very reliable account of the then state of Birmingham, "including the origin, progress, and expansion of the manufactures," and "the character and customs of its numerous inhabitants." This is done with a friendly, but truthful hand; and the picture drawn by Mr. Morfitt will be highly gratifying to the present generation of readers.

After describing the government of the town and its places of worship, the one feature of the people which arrests our author's attention and elicits his praise, is one which has attracted so many both before and since his time, and that feature is their social spirit. His words are, "Its striking characteristic is a superlative degree of the social spirit, and a marked attention and respect to strangers." Hutton had before marked this, and bore willing and hearty testimony to this characteristic. "I mixed," he says, "with a variety of company, chiefly of the lower ranks, and rather as a silent spectator. I was treated with an easy freedom by all, and with marks of favour by some. Hospitality

seemed to claim this happy people for her own." The Gleaner himself, who had travelled far, and seen

"cities of men
And manners, climates, councils, governments,"

says, "I have never found, in any part of the world, a more unaffected desire to see, serve, and amuse a stranger, whether information or curiosity be his motive; or more general good desire, in union with good manners, than in the inhabitants of Birmingham." They were also renowned for their love of good ale. Bisset tells us that we were famed for this commodity; and Morfitt wishes to lay a stress on the "epithet *good*, for, were it otherwise, in vain might the landlord bow and the landlady apologise: no atonement could possibly be made, and the most elegant parlour would be deserted for the meanest tap-room. It is by no means uncommon, after the usual salutations and greetings, to ask one another as a most important question, 'Where is the best tap?'" According to the same authority, "One of the chief luxuries of a Birmingham mechanic is a leg of mutton, with turnips and caper sauce. This is the common public-house wager, and is generally eaten for supper." A favourite treat of all classes is recorded to have been tripe and cow-heel, a luxury which then, as in our own time, used to be announced by the "town crier" as "ready at seven o'clock."

Of the people's love for gardens, and the extraordinary opportunities they had of gratifying that love, we have often spoken, and now quote the testimony of an eye witness. Mr. Morfitt thus describes their "uncommon partiality for gardens and gardening:"—

Like the ancient Romans, they are all fond of cultivating their cabbages, yet not for profit, but pleasure. In consequence of this horticultural propensity, the town is, in every direction, bordered by gardens, and, in the language of poetry, invested by a zone of vegetable beauty, in which are stuck, by way of grotesque ornaments, arbours and summer houses of all the forms that untutored fancy can devise. Into these rural recesses (most of which lie at a considerable distance, and some a mile or more, from the habitations of their owners) retire the merchant, the manufacturer, and mechanic to relive the *tædium* of the counting-house, and the labours of the workshop. Here the sons of the anvil "relax their ponderous strength." Yet, though the rural principle is triumphant, it cannot entirely extirpate the habits of the town. Many of the little fabrics, dignified with the name of summer houses, though in general built with a sovereign contempt of all the orders of architecture, contain a commodious repository for their favourite beverage; and in all of them it is accounted a luxury to smoke a pipe; without this auxiliary the *divini gloria ruris* loses its charms in the eyes of a Birmingham mechanic; yet still this propensity bespeaks

a refined taste, and dispositions naturally quiescent. Is it probable that a race of savages should erect altars to Flora, or that people fond of riot, confusion, or plunder should take delight in the tranquil recreations of a garden!

To this pretty picture of old Birmingham Mr. Pratt adds his testimony, and tells us in a note what he saw here in 1802–3.

I must confess, he says, I was, no less than my estimable correspondent, delighted with the abundance of ground thus laid into upwards of a thousand gardens. From the point at which I took my observation* they formed a Chinese view, with little fanciful temples and various arbourage, calculated for recreation and use. It was refreshing even to think of so many thousands of ingenious creatures retiring to their flowery nooks and verdant recesses, after bending over the counter, working at the anvil, filing or nailing throughout the day. I looked at it even with something of a tender satisfaction, as equally conducive to health, virtue, and domestic happiness.

At this time there were "lodges of Free-masons, Bucks, Druids, Odd-fellows, and Knights of the Wood." Mr. Morfitt is "convinced that the principle of most of them is philanthropy, and of all harmless hilarity." His next statement will surprise most readers of the present time. Mr. Morfitt says, "The inhabitants seem to have a voracious appetite for reading, which is amply gratified by two large subscription libraries, exclusive of many circulating ones, particularly that of Mr. Lowe, our law-stationer, which in its complement of novels, romances, and other books of fancy and amusement, is perhaps exceeded by no other provincial collection in the kingdom. Even the working mechanics have, by a small weekly contribution, accumulated a number of useful books, which they denominate the *Artists' Repository*." In a note he mentions as subscription libraries of this period Pearson's, and Grafton and Riddell's. We have already in our accounts of the formation of many of our philanthropic institutions, and in our records of the yearly contributions to the relief of the poor, given a full confirmation of the following sentences of Mr. Morfitt, which we rejoice to have the opportunity to quote. "In Birmingham," he writes, "'CHARITY never faileth;' and, to its immortal honour, the hallowed flame has uniformly burnt the brightest in the darkest scenes of adversity and distress. Never, since the town had existence, was it more exhausted than during the late war; and, yet, never were its charities supported with greater vigour." Then follows a brief history of most of the charitable institutions then existing.

* From a former passage we learn that this point was in the High Street, at a part that fronts New Street; very probably Mr. Hutton's house.

The morals of the working class were at this time exceedingly bad. This is the reverse side of the picture. All the witnesses confirm Mr. Morfitt in his complaint of the shameful language used by the work-people. Their talk was a succession of oaths. Mr. Pratt, describing the scene in St. Philip's Church Yard, as "the countless multitudes, formed from the different manufactories" were going home to dinner, says, "oaths, no less unprovoked than dire, were to be heard on all hands, though uttered more in wantonness, from continued bad habit, than from any bad intention: and yet, in general, perhaps without the idea of the wickedness of the practice." Drunkenness was a common vice of the artisan and mechanic; and Mr. Morfitt draws a very gloomy picture of the way in which earnings were wasted and squandered. Nor is he less emphatic in his statement of evils which follow the employment of women in our manufactories. His words are worth quoting now. "It must be confessed," he says, "that the wives of the artisans of Birmingham are, in general, as deficient in those duties as their husbands. They are lamentably unfit for wives; which will always be the case where women are brought up in the shops or manufactories; because this allows no time for attention either to the decencies or the discretion of life. The very state of childhood is almost necessarily abandoned by mothers who are engaged in the workshops of this town. Till the boys and girls can themselves get into occupation, they are suffered to run loose in the day, and to ramble at night. And, as idleness is the source of licentiousness, which leads them, the little unprotected creatures, into constant temptations, no wonder if they almost as constantly fall into the snare. . . . . Boys and girls, men and women, frequently associate, and there is scarcely a line of separation drawn, either by policy, decorum, or sexual distinction. So that the work of the manufacturer be carried on, too many, it is to be feared, are totally indifferent whether vice or virtue, health or disease, modesty or indecency, compose the society. But what makes it the more flagrant is, that these associations are necessary to the children who are in training for the manufactories. The men and women teach the boys and girls the mingled industry and immorality they have learned themselves." There is too much of this true at the present time; but a great change for the better is indicated by the fact that a vast majority

of our manufacturers anticipated and gladly accepted the regulations of a wise Factory Act.

On the politics of the time Mr. Morfitt must surely have taken an exaggerated view; or he was himself so opposed to the Liberals of the day, and so fully shared the prejudices of the time, that he saw nothing but evil in their hopes and aspirations. Writing in 1804, only thirteen years after the Church and King riots of 1791, he thus pictures the political life of the working men :—

"Nor must we, in this enumeration of the great causes of a defective state of morals in this town, forget to observe upon the wicked industry with which *licentious principles* (that is Whig politics) have been propagated. The manufactories, my friend, have their politicians and republicans, as well as the barber's shop and the ale-house; yea, and their revolutionists, Robespieres, and atheists, are as numerous and as fierce; and it is as common to hear the downfall of states, the high and low Church party, the indivisibility of the great nation, the imperfection of thrones and dominions, and the perfectability of human nature, the bill of rights and the bill of wrongs, discussed and determined in casting a button or pointing a pin, as at the Devil Tavern, or the Robin Hood Society."

And then we have a fearful picture of the dangers which come from "the rocks of treason, and the quicksands of rebellion;" or, if these are escaped, from the "shallows or the depths of infidelity;" which we have happily passed through without much injury. He next alludes to the habits of the idle in collecting at street corners; round the Public Office; at the coach offices, to watch the "exits and entrances of the stage coaches." Here is a street corner scene, as painted in 1804: "Eight or ten people, with their hands on their head or in their bosoms, stand fixed in a stupid gaze at each other, very seldom converse, and yet seldomer appear to be in the least degree amused or interested; yet they keep their station, occupying more than three parts of the footway, making it almost impossible to work your way through them. This well-compacted phalanx of loungers is so firm that, although there appears to be neither aim nor end in it, I question whether the famous pass at Thermopylæ was more stoutly disputed."

Our author also gives some admirable notes for the history of the staple trades of the town at the time. In this work we have the first reliable record of the manufacture of guns, swords, buckles, buttons, and an infinite variety of other articles. There is a brief account of Baskerville and his printing; of Taylor and his buttons; and an excel-

lent sketch of Soho, from which we have quoted in our description of that little world of art and industry. One extract from this letter must suffice.

The art of Founding, or casting in iron, has here attained singular excellence, and was carried on with singular *éclat*, by a Mr. Hodgets, upwards of fifty years ago. Every article almost that can cross the imagination is now *cast*: locks and keys, hinges with moveable joints, buttons to imitate steel, nails, scissors, razors, and even needles; but the last must, by a subsequent operation, be *tempered*, that is heated along with some substance containing *carbon*, in order to give them flexibility or acuteness. The above-named Hodgets wrote upon his sign, "Every thing cast here." A wag, seeing the inscription, asked him to *cast* a tall grove of trees near his house. "With all my heart," says Hodgets; "I'll cast them if you will but send me the *patterns*."

Mr. Morfitt also tells us that "Thread making is an old and lucrative business in this town, having been carried on in 'the days of other years,' by a Mr. Abney, who lived at the Moat, the seat of our antient feudal lords." This trade has now entirely left us.

Mr. Morfitt was an enthusiastic Church-and-King man. He hated Dr. Priestley with all the hatred of the old Tory. He wrote against him both in prose and verse, and it is hard to say in which he was the most vehement and vituperative. He supported the Government in all their measures; was favourable to the war, and patriotically abused the French in the old English fashion. In 1803 he published a war pamphlet, entitled "The British Tocsin; or the War with France justified, and the Charge Sounded: concluding with an Address to the Regulars, Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers of Great Britain." A passage or two from this trumpet blast of war will suffice to show Mr. Morfitt's principles, method, and style:—

At this tremendous crisis, when we are unavoidably involved in hostilities with an audacious and unprincipled usuper, who never made war but with an intention to enslave, nor peace but with the intention to betray; he must be more of a philosopher or less of a Briton than myself, who "can refrain even from good words." When the son of Crœsus, who was born dumb, saw the hostile sword suspended over the head of his venerable parent, the vocal organs were stimulated, "and he spake with his tongue." The theme on which I can no longer be silent, requires not a series of calm dispassionate reasoning: it abounds in facts that render moderation no longer a virtue, and in their discussion I shall not dread the sneer of criticism, nor make any apology for redundancy of epithets or vehemence of diction. The field is far more open to invective than to argument, and my business is to animate, where I need not instruct. The circumstances to which I shall have occasion to allude are too notorious to be denied, too recent to be forgotten, and too plain to be perplexed. In a cause so interesting to my feelings and those of my country-

men I deprecate the censure of saying too little more than that of saying too much. Talk not to me of guarded phraseology, when speaking of a daring despot, equally the enemy of England and of Europe, who would, like a Colossus, bestride the British Channel, and, like the Persian, enchain the winds and whip the waves.

The praises which were at this time lavished upon Bonaparte in France fill our author with horror and raise his indignation to the highest pitch. After giving a few examples, he says :—

Every rational mind must revolt with horror and disgust from this blasphemous rant of praise bestowed on a most consummate hypocrite and impostor; whose regard to the crescent and the cross is equal, and who after professing himself in Egypt one of the faithful followers of Mahomet, now kisses the cross, receives the aspersion of holy water, and bows with affected veneration to all the mummery of Rome.

His address to our various armed forces is thus concluded :—

"Unwind your patriot flags, ye 'stems of a victorious stock!' Grasp the gleaming sabre, point the tube of death; and tell the insolent invaders, as loud as your guns can roar, that ye are the undaunted champions of your KING, your COUNTRY, and your GOD.

'O give a glorious scope! unhinge, destroy
Their very power of doing future wrongs!
So shall the rescu'd world pour forth its blessings,
And kings and kingdoms thank your arms for safety.'"

Amongst his poems is one on Birmingham which was published in Tye's description of the town in 1818; and in quoting this we take leave of Mr. Morfitt and his works :—

Illustrious offspring of volcanic toil!
Pride of the country! glory of the isle!
Europe's grand toyshop! Art's exhaustless mine!
These, and more titles, Birmingham, are thine.
From jealous fears, from charter'd fetters free,
Desponding genius finds a friend in thee;

Thy soul, as lib'ral as the breath of spring,
Cheers his faint heart, and plumes his flagging wing.
'Tis thine, with plastic hand, to mould the mass
Of ductile silver and resplendent brass;
'Tis thine, with sooty finger, to produce
Unnumber'd forms for ornament and use.

Hark! what a sound!—art's pond'rous fabric reels,
Beneath machinery's ten thousand wheels:
Loud falls the stamp, the whirling lathes resound,
And engines heave, while hammers clatter round:
What labour forges, patient art refines,
Till bright as dazzling day metallic beauty shines.

Thy swords, elastic, arm our heroes' hands;
Thy muskets thunder in remotest lands;
Thy sparkling buttons distant courts emblaze;
Thy polish'd steel emits the diamond's rays;
Paper, beneath thy magic hand, assumes
A mirror brightness, and with beauty blooms.
With each Etruscan grace thy vases shine,
And proud Japan's fam'd varnish yields to thine.

Thine, too, the trinkets that the fair adorn.
But who can count the spangles of the morn?
What pencil can pourtray this splendid mart,
This vast, stupendous wilderness of art,
Where fancy sports in all her rainbow hues,
And beauty's radiant forms perplex the muse?
The boundless theme transcends poetic lays,—
Let plain historic truth record thy praise.

The following is the contemporary record of Mr. Morfitt's death :—

May 15, 1809.—On Monday, in the 52nd year of his age, John Morfitt, Esq., son of the Rev. Mr. Morfitt, Rector of Horsforth and Scarborough, Yorkshire, and perpetual Curate of Hatton, in this county. Mr. John Morfitt was a barrister-at-law, had formerly been a member of University College, Oxford, and was for many years an inhabitant of this town. With a benevolent temper and honourable principles, he united a considerable share of classical learning, especially in Latin authors; great general knowledge of modern writers, a correct taste in English prose, and talents for English poetry. His eminent talents were very frequently employed in assisting the distressed and unfortunate, and hundreds, in addition to his numerous friends, will have to lament the loss of one who felt a pleasure in distributing the advantages which Nature and Education had so liberally bestowed upon him.

"Seek not his merits farther to disclose,
Nor draw his frailties from their dread abode;
There they alike in trembling hope repose,
The bosom of his Father and his God."—*Gray's Elegy.*

TO ARMS! TO ARMS ONCE MORE!

The year 1802 opened with hopes which were destined to a speedy disappointment. The Peace of Amiens was a short-lived one indeed. It was signed on February 27; and the rejoicings of the nation showed how deeply the people longed for a cessation of the ruinous war. Birmingham was as anxious for peace as the rest of the kingdom. The prosperity of the gun and sword trades was but a small satisfaction in

return for the depression of the thousand and one industries upon which depended then—even as it now depends—the well-being of the inhabitants. The news of the definitive treaty having been signed was thus received :—

April 5, 1802.—With heartfelt satisfaction we congratulate our readers upon the arrival of the long-expected Definitive Treaty of Peace. The joyful information was first brought to this town on Tuesday morning, before three o'clock, by the Balloon post coach, which came from London (110 miles) in ten hours and forty minutes. The streets were in a very short time crowded with thousands of people, in anxious expectation of the Mail, which came in between nine and ten, drawn by six horses, and decorated with flags, ribbons, &c. Immediately on its arrival at the Inn the populace took out the horses, and dragged it in exultation round the town for several hours. Bonfires and a general illumination, though not so brilliant an one as we have seen on former occasions, concluded the day.

On Wednesday, at one o'clock, the Birmingham Loyal Association met in New Street, and fired a *feu de joie*, and in the evening the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood were most highly gratified by a splendid illumination.

On the 2nd of April Mr. H. Legge, of Aston Hall, celebrated the arrival of the news by "giving to his poor neighbours an ox and two sheep, and a quart of ale to each man and a pint to each woman." These rejoicings were followed by addresses to the king, by celebration dinners, by medals, and all the other manifestations of satisfaction usual upon such occasions. The 1st of June was appointed as a day of public thanksgiving ; and a hopeful correspondent trusted that this event would tend to allay the rancour of party which still afflicted the town. His letter is worth quoting, as it is a contemporary witness of the sad and long-enduring effects of the riots of 1791. The meeting alluded to is the one at which an address to the King was adopted on the "happy restoration of peace :"—

To the Printers of Aris's Birmingham Gazette.

May 31, 1802.—Gentlemen,—Will you allow me, through the medium of your paper, to congratulate the Town on the happy presage of returning harmony manifested at our Public Meeting on Friday last. I rejoice that, after the unhappy animosities which have so long divided us, a question hath been submitted to the Town of Birmingham on which there appeared but one opinion. The experience of the last ten years hath indeed kept a dear school ; but it has taught us lessons which, I trust, will not soon be forgotten. A consideration of the perils into which we have been thrown—of the dangers from which we have been rescued—of the protecting energies of our admirable Constitution, directed by the mild but vigorous administration of our Government—and of the distinguished privileges we enjoy under the best of Sovereigns, calls loudly for National Gratitude ; and

if rightly improved, will powerfully induce the friends of good order not only to cultivate the arts of public peace, but to promote, to the utmost, domestic union and good neighbourhood.

Under this impression I cannot but cherish the hope that, in the public solemnities of the approaching day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God, the rancour of party feuds will expire in the ardour of genuine devotion, and that the glorious event of Peace, which has given rest to Europe, will seal in oblivion the memory of our past dissensions.

Yours, &c., M.

The day of thanksgiving was held, and was "devoutly observed in this town. Collections were made after service at the different Churches and Chapels for the support of the Sunday Schools, and the following sums received :—

	£.	s.	d.
St. Martin's	13	6	6½
St. Philip's	22	17	8
St. Mary's	24	12	8
St. Paul's	11	1	0
St. Bartholomew's	5	11	7
Ashted	4	3	4
Total	£81	12	9½"

This happiness was of short duration. The ambitious greed of Bonaparte, and his hatred of England, made peace distasteful, and at the earliest moment he made its continuance impossible. On March 18, 1803, war was declared. "This time," says Mr. Goldwin Smith, "a necessary war ; for I am confirmed that, with the perfidy and rapine of Bonaparte, no peace could be made ; that the struggle with him was a struggle for the independence of all nations against the armed and disciplined hordes of a conqueror as cruel and as barbarous as Attila. The outward mark of civilisation Bonaparte wore, and he could use political and social ideas for the purpose of his ambition as dexterously as cannon ; but in character he was a Corsican, and as savage as any bandit of his isle. If utter selfishness, if the reckless sacrifice of humanity to your own interest and passions be vileness, history has no viler name. I can look with pride upon the fortitude and constancy which England displayed in the contest with the universal tyrant."* The war now began in earnest. Bonaparte threatened the invasion of England, and the whole nation at once leapt, as it were, to arms to oppose him. Our town was not behind in this patriotic work. A re-

* Three English Statesmen : A Course of Lectures on the Political History of England. By Goldwin Smith. pp. 313-314.

quisition was presented to the High Bailiff, who thereupon called a Town's Meeting for Friday, August 5, of which we have this report :—

August 8, 1803.—We never felt greater satisfaction than in witnessing the very numerous and respectable meeting of the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood, at Styles's Hotel, on Friday, to consider what steps were proper to be taken most promptly and effectually to forward the views of Government at this critical and important juncture. With the utmost pleasure we record the unanimity that prevailed throughout; even those persons who have on former occasions so widely differed from their fellow-townsmen on political subjects, now declared their sentiments to be in full unison with the rest of the meeting, and that they were willing to come forward with their last shilling, and to spend the last drop of their blood in support of this now happy country against the threats of the Corsican Usurper.

A subscription was commenced, which at the first meeting amounted to nearly £4,600. The following are a few of the names of our townsmen, with the amount they subscribed on this occasion :—James Goddington, £105 ; John Taylor, £315 ; Spooner and Attwoods, £315 ; Isaac Spooner, £105 ; Robert Coales, Woolley, and Co., £210 ; Woolley and Deakin, £105 ; Dickenson, Goodalls, and Co., £210 ; Samuel Pemberton, £105 ; Birmingham Mining and Copper Company, £500 ; Samuel Galton, £210 ; John Rotton, £105. By the 22nd of August the subscription exceeded £9,000. Nor was the spirit of the people displayed by money contributions alone. On the same day this paragraph appeared :—

August 22, 1803.—In addition to the patriotic offers of individuals already announced we record with much pleasure that of Mr. Robert S. Skey, who engages to have at the disposal of Government, in case of invasion, ten boats (together of 200 tons tonnage) at his wharf in this town, and fifteen boats (of 300 tons) at Stourport, with men and horses, and also two waggons and horses, with drivers. Mr. Styles, of the Hotel, in this town, has also most patriotically offered all his chaises and horses to convey his Majesty's troops, free of expense, to the extent of one stage, at any time in case of invasion.

And again :—

Aug. 22, 1803.—Instances of Patriotism.—Wm. Jones, a jobbing smith of this town, fearful that his age (73) would preclude him from serving his country, made his return 53, at the same time offering himself as a volunteer.—Wm. Cooke, a bolt-maker of this town, on receiving his bounty to serve as a substitute in the Warwick Militia, immediately took means to remit five guineas as his subscription to the patriotic fund at Lloyd's.

In the next week's paper we have this further account of the progress of the patriotic movement :—

We are glad to perceive that the subscription for the encouragement of the Volunteer Corps of this town, daily receives great and liberal additions ; it will be seen by the

advertisement that it exceeds ten thousand seven hundred pounds, to which, we have reason to believe, a considerable sum will be brought forward, from the parish of Aston, in our next publication. It is a source of generous pride to us that, though our means of wealth have, for a series of time, been diminishing, still the same liberality exhibits itself upon every great and important crisis. With no less pleasure do we hear that that very respectable part of our fellow townsmen, the Quakers, intend to come forward with pecuniary aid, under particular modifications consistent with their religious tenets. They admit, as every good citizen must, the necessities of the times, and that the present moment calls for every sort of exertion. We must, however, and it is an irksome duty, deprecate the parsimonious conduct of some individuals, upon whose gratitude the town has the strongest claim, because in this place they have emerged from obscurity to opulence. Such characters must and will be contemned, and care should be taken that they be held up to infamy and dishonour. With this view, therefore, we are happy to hear that a corrected schedule of our contributions, distributing the several subscribers into streets, will finally be published.

In the two days that the books have been opened in this town to receive the names, upwards of eighteen hundred persons have enrolled themselves to serve in a Volunteer Corps. The Committee attend again this day and to-morrow, at Styles's Hotel, from nine o'clock till four, for the purpose of receiving additional names, when we trust that the householders will come forward more generally with their offers of service than they have yet done.

The regiment of Volunteer Infantry, now raising in this town, is intended to consist of three battalions of ten companies each, with a Lieutenant-Colonel and two Majors to each battalion. The Colonelcy has been offered, and, we are happy to say accepted by the Earl of Dartmouth; the other Field Officers, and the Captains to the first battalion, were also nominated on Friday; but, as the consent of all of them is not yet obtained, we cannot insert their names till our next publication.

We are authorised to state that the Earl of Warwick, the Lord Lieutenant of this County, has made an offer to Government to subscribe the sum of ten thousand pounds, to be expended in the purchase of arms for the use of all the Volunteer Corps of the County of Warwick, which may have received his Majesty's approbation. We are likewise informed that his Lordship has declared his intention of allotting the sum of £1,000 for the relief of the families of such volunteers of the county of Warwick as may fall in the honourable defence of their country; or, if not so expended, in aid of the general subscription at Lloyd's. Mrs. Lloyd, of the Hen and Chickens Hotel, in this town, anxious to render every service in her power to the general cause, has offered all her chaises and horses, as well as her waggons, carts, &c., at her farm, for the accommodation of the country in case of invasion, to be under the direction of the Deputy Lieutenant of the District.

The pens of Freeth, Bisset, Morfitt, Weston and Nott, were at work encouraging the spirit of the people. The Duke of York expressed his approval of some of the songs, and sent letters of acknowledgment to their authors. Mr. Joseph Harris supplied both words and music to a song called "John Bull;" Mr. J. Bisset issued his "Patriotic Clarion;

or, a Call to Glory! containing twelve original Songs, written on the threatened Invasion." These were inscribed, "by permission," to the Commander-in-Chief; Mr. Morfitt published his "Tocsin;" and Mr. Job Nott his tract, "The British Lion Brayed, and the French Tyrant Trembles." So there was no lack of local war literature on the occasion.

The following local appointments were made by the War Office:—

October 17th, 1803.

War Office.

Loyal Birmingham Volunteer Infantry.

To be Colonel, George, Earl of Dartmouth.

First Battalion of the Loyal Birmingham Volunteer Infantry.—To be Lieutenant Colonel, John Breynton, Esq.; to be Major, Lord Lewisham.

To be Captains:

James Timmins, Esq.	Joseph Moore, Esq.
Alexander Forrest, Esq.	Robert Samuel Skey, Esq.
Isaac Pratt, Esq.	Henry Pratt, Esq.
Richard Warren, Esq.	Lowe Smith, Esq.
Thomas Hanson, Esq.	Richard Beaumont, Esq.

To be Lieutenants:

Matthew Linwood, Gent.	Francis Johnson, Gent.
Richard Gardiner, Gent.	James N. Watred, Gent.
Josiah Richards, Gent.	Lovelace Welch, Gent.
Edmund Tompkins, Gent.	James Male, Gent.
Samuel Tomlinson, Gent.	John Simeon, Gent.
William Shore, Gent.	Joseph Hawkesford, Gent.

To be Ensigns:

Daniel Clowes, Gent.	J. A. Soellner, Gent.
John Hemsley, Gent.	George Proctor, Gent.
George Richards, Gent.	Tho. B. Robinson, Gent.
Willian Haynes, Gent.	John Smith, Gent.

To be Surgeon, George Freer, Gent.

To be Assistant Surgeon, C. V. Webb, Gent.

Second Battalion of the Loyal Birmingham Volunteer Infantry.—To be Lieutenant-Colonel, John Gorden, Esq.; to be Major, John Taylor, Esq.

To be Captains:

George Timmins, Esq.	Joseph Randell, Esq.
Joseph Willmore, Esq.,	James Osborne, Esq.
John Porter, Esq.	Obadiah Bellamy, Esq.
George Meredith, Esq.	Edward Jesse, Esq.
Thomas Barrs, Esq.	Joseph Mason Guest, Esq.

To be Lieutenants:

William Betts, Gent.	John James Iddens, Gent.
John Matchett, Gent.	Charles Kenclow, Gent
Richard Hipkiss, Gent.	William Capenhurst, Gent.
Thomas Bartleet, Gent.	William Jones, Gent.

To be Ensigns:

John Twemlow, Gent.	Edward Waddell, Gent.
John Parrock, Gent.	Edw. Villers Wilkes, Gent.
Henry Hunt, Gent.	Joseph Walsh, Gent.

Third Battalion of the Loyal Birmingham Volunteer Infantry.—To be Lieutenant-Colonel, Henry Johnson, Esq.; to be Majors, John Wilkes, Esq., Wyrley Birch, Esq.

To be Captains:

Samuel Bellamy, Esq.	John Heycock Jervis, Esq.
John Meredith, Esq.	Thomas Attwood, Esq.
George Burrish, Esq.	Richard Bird, Esq.
Robert Lloyd, Esq.	Roger Williams Gem, Esq.
Edward Thomason, Esq.	William Withering, Esq.

To be Lieutenants:

William Bingley, Gent.	William Whitmore, Gent.
Charles Cope, Gent.	John Linwood, Gent.
Francis Eginton, Gent.	John Parkes, Gent.
James Rabone, Gent.	Robert Webb, Gent.
John Seward, Esq.	

To be Ensigns:

Abel Williams, Gent.	William Wilday, Gent.
Charles Grafton, Gent.	Joseph Walker, Gent.
Thomas Dixon, Gent.	Wm. Humphry Vale, Gent.
Francis Shepperd, Gent	

At the same time we are informed that "Official communications have been received from Government, stating it to be their intention, in the course of a few days, to put all Volunteer Corps, both Cavalry and Infantry, upon permanent pay."

In order to increase the enthusiasm, and to enlist all persons in the great work of national defence, the ladies were specially appealed to. On November 14 was issued the following

Address to the Ladies and Fair Sex in general, of Birmingham and its Vicinity.

Fair Countrywomen,—You must be aware of the new and unprecedented danger with which our nation is at this moment threatened, and of the immediate preparation (to which the famous Spanish Armada and all former invasions bear no comparison in magnitude) which that Barbarian, Bonaparte, has made, in hopes of subduing this kingdom, of killing its brave defenders, of plundering its treasures, of ruining its trade and commerce, and of reducing us to the wretched and contemptible servitude of the nations which he

has already conquered and enslaved. You have seen how a truly British spirit has animated your fathers, brothers, husbands, sons, and lovers to arm themselves voluntarily in defence of their country, their religion, their laws and liberty, their property, their lives (what is as dear to them as all these?) to protect you from injury, and your sacred charms from ruffian violation. For these noble purposes they have engaged to forego the ease and comforts of domestic life, to expose themselves to the toils and hardships of military service, and to hazard their persons and lives in repelling an inveterate and powerful foe. Though your sex precludes all personal exertion (as the modern taste is not sufficiently heroic to admire ladies of a warlike spirit), let your influence over the minds of men, which is known to have been powerful from the days of Eve to the present time, be employed to encourage them, and to reward their labours by your esteem and favour in this great cause.

Though you cannot defend and cover them from the dangers of the field by a veil of clouds, as Venus did her favourite Paris, yet you may, without a miracle, and by the simple aid of a Flannel Jacket, defend them from the severity of a cold and wet winter campaign, and consequently against the fatal diseases to which armies are liable from this cause, and which are generally more destructive than the sword.

You have probably heard of the subscriptions which have been entered into by your sex for providing flannel clothing for the volunteers in London and other places. Be assured you cannot imitate a better example, nor one which, for the smallness of expense, can contribute more to the health and comfort of your protectors; and you may also be assured that the value of the gift will be greatly enhanced by the love and regard which they will have for their fair benefactors. Every gallant volunteer, while on service, will feel the clothing doubly warm and doubly comfortable, when he recollects by whom it has been given, perhaps among others by the fair one whom, of all the world, he loves best. He will value his portion of flannel more highly than he would the celebrated Golden Fleece; as, indeed, it will, besides, be much more useful.

You might, if room, be reminded from history of many patriotic and noble examples given by your sex: of the Roman ladies having sacrificed their jewels and ornaments for the defence of their country; and of the Carthaginian damsels cutting off their flowing locks to be formed into cordage for warlike instruments; but English women will require no other inducement than merely to be informed that a subscription for the purpose of supplying the Birmingham Volunteers with flannel clothing has been proposed by some patriotic ladies, to be opened at Messrs. Knott and Lloyd's and other places, where, undoubtedly, the fairest and best will be the most forward in placing their names in this honourable and benevolent list. Possibly some of the fair seamstresses may add to the value of their benefaction by assisting in the workmanship at their houses.

It is further proposed that, in order to give every well-disposed female an opportunity of showing her good will, the subscription shall be limited, so that no one lady shall subscribe more than two guineas, or as much less as may suit every one's convenience. The widow's mite will be held in no less regard than the largest benefaction.

Fair Countrywomen, you have now an opportunity of showing your gratitude to your protectors, your good wishes for their safety and success, and your zeal in the glorious cause of defence of all that you hold most dear!

AN OLD SOLDIER.

The ladies responded nobly to this appeal. They not only gave money, but undertook to make flannel dresses for the volunteers. Before the end of 1803 more than 5,000 dresses were promised. Lady Dartmouth offered 120, Miss Goodall 120, Miss James 100, Mrs. Knott 120, the Schools of Industry 200, Mrs. Sumner and Miss Mallett 144, Mrs. Birch 100, Miss Hunt 100, and so on through a long list of names. The ladies also subscribed more than £700 in money. The advertisement announcing the ladies' gifts and donations was so long that the editor had to append a note, stating that "From the length of the above advertisement, we are obliged to postpone till next week the insertion of a number of other subscribers, as well as the offers to make the dresses."

The first field-day of the Volunteers was held on November 15, of which we have this contemporary report :—

Nov. 21, 1803.—On Tuesday the whole of the first battalion of the Loyal Birmingham Volunteers, accompanied by the Light Infantry of the second battalion, appeared for the first time in full uniform, and were inspected by their Colonel, the Earl of Dartmouth, on their exercising ground, leading to the Five Ways. We witnessed with pride and exultation the truly military appearance of this fine body of men, who, at this most important crisis, have so nobly stepped forth in defence of their country; and we feel much satisfaction in laying before our readers the thanks of their Colonel—the most flattering testimony of their appearance and their state of discipline :—

(Copy.)

"*General Orders.*

"The Colonel desires to repeat the acknowledgment of the very great and unmixed pleasure which he derived yesterday from the inspection of the first battalion, and the light infantry of the second battalion. He congratulates Lieutenant-Colonel Breynton and the officers upon the appearance of the corps, their great steadiness under arms, and the precision with which they performed every part of their exercise. He requests the officers to convey the expression of his high approbation to the non-commissioned officers and privates under their command, and to assure themselves and them that a continuance of the same zeal and alacrity in the discharge of their duty will place the Loyal Birmingham Volunteers among the foremost of those whom the glorious and interesting cause of their country has united in the defence of everything most dear and most sacred to men and Britons in the present anxious moment. (Signed)

"Sandwell, Nov. 16, 1803." "Dartmouth, Colonel.

It was intended that the light infantry of the third battalion should have appeared on the same day, completely clothed, &c., but all their appointments not being ready, they were unable to attend. They paraded, however, yesterday morning in full uniform, and afterwards marched to church. The other companies of the second and third battalions are expected to be clothed in the course of three weeks.

This notice was also published :—

It is generally believed that the time of the long-threatened invasion is at no great distance, and it must afford great satisfaction to the nation to witness the preparations which Government is making for that event. It is of the greatest importance that the internal good order and tranquillity of the country should be effectually provided for; and with this view the Secretary of State has received his Majesty's commands to recommend to the magistrates throughout the kingdom to enquire, in their several districts, what trustworthy housekeepers or others who are not enrolled in any volunteer corps or liable to military service from being included in the first and second classes under the general defence acts, will, in the event of the enemy landing, engage to come forward, and to act as special constables within their respective parishes and districts, and to take a list of such names, with their places of residence. It is recommended that the special constables should be formed into small divisions, with persons selected from each division and placed at the head thereof, as superintendents, by the resident magistrates.

The physicians of the town took their share of the good work, and looked after the health of the men. The following report will show the sensible advice which they gave on the occasion :—

Nov. 13, 1803.—Committee of the Volunteers of the Town of Birmingham; the Earl of Dartmouth in the Chair. The following Address from the Physicians of Birmingham was read :

The Physicians of Birmingham to the Loyal Birmingham Volunteers.

Fellow Townsmen,—Our Country is threatened; and, with true British Spirit, you have voluntarily stepped forward and ranged yourselves in Arms. But to render your Services effectual good health is necessary; and, as Individuals, we believe that, at this Conjuncture, we cannot more essentially serve the common Cause than by pointing out to your Notice such Regulations as may tend to the Preservation of that Blessing, and to the Increase of your Comfort.

The Life of a Soldier in actual Service will be found widely to differ from that of the common Citizen. Heat and Cold, Hunger and Fatigue, must each be encountered; but these Evils, by proper Attention on your Part, may be materially mitigated, and even rendered comparatively light and inoppressive. Flannel is the proper Clothing for a Soldier; it not only prevents the heat of the Body from being too speedily dissipated, but it readily absorbs the Moisture, whether produced by over Exertion, or the Effect of external Humidity. In our variable Climate, it is a Shield against sudden Vicissitudes, and, to a Constitution not accustomed to Hardships, it is the best Preventive of Disease. Every Soldier, therefore, ought to provide himself with two Flannel Waistcoats, to be worn next the Skin, two Pair of Flannel Drawers, two Pair of warm Worsted Stockings, and two Flannel Night-caps, and with what is no less necessary, two Pair of warm stout Shoes.

After Exposure to the Weather, whether you have suffered from Cold or Heat, or from the Rain, do not remain inactive. If you are hot, take gentle Exercise in the Shade till you are cool; avoid Currents of cold Air, and do not indulge in Draughts of cold Liquids. If you are cold, gradually recover your lost Heat by Friction or Exercise in a temperate Room; but avoid the sudden Approach to a large Fire. If you are wet, whether with

Rain or Perspiration, or even should your Clothes be damp only, do not neglect to shift yourselves immediately. If, after the Fatigues of a forced March or of a Battle, you should find yourselves much exhausted, do not seek to indulge too freely, but let your frugal Meal be seasoned with the very moderate Use of Wine, Spirits, or of Malt Liquor; and for this Temperance you will be recompensed by sound Sleep, from which you will arise with renewed Vigour and Animation.

The poplar Belief that the Use of Spirituous Liquors renders a Person less susceptible of cold and better enables him to endure Fatigue cannot be too much reprobated; the very Reverse is the Truth. The Dram-drinker is exhilirated for the moment, but he soon is benumbed by cold and exhausted by fatigue; while he who drinks Malt Liquor, or Wine, or Spirits the most sparingly, sets Cold at Defiance, and performs all his duty with Ease and Alacrity. But the evil consequences to the Spirit drinkers are not merely temporary; his Stomach soon becomes disordered, his Appetite is lost, and mortal Disease ensues.

The Military Life is one either of very great exertion or of comparative Inactivity; but the latter is the Foe to Health. Do not, therefore, suffer Listlessness or Sloth to occupy the Soldier, but let those hours not filled up with the duties of your Profession be dedicated to cheerful and active Amusement.

It is better to prevent disease than to cure; and by attention to these suggestions, a proper observance of the regular Hours for Food, and the strictest Cleanliness of Person, we trust that your Health may be protected, and your comforts increased. To these general Instructions we subjoin that, in particular cases of Disease, any one or all of us will ever be ready to render every Assistance to the Loyal Volunteers.

Thomas Smith,	Robert Bree,
Edward Johnstone,	John Johnstone,
William Gilby,	Francis Rogers,
John Carmichael,	Geo. Edward Male.

Note.—The Flannel Waistcoat should be made large, with sleeves, and to extend below the Hip Bone, at least eight inches. In the shoes loose Cork Soles are admirable Protectors from Damp.

Resolved,—That the warmest thanks of this Committee be presented to the Physicians for their very opportune and meritorious attention to the Health of the Volunteers; and that their address be printed and distributed to the several Volunteers, and inserted in the Birmingham Papers.

Barker and Unett, Secretaries.

We have great pleasure in quoting this brief record of an heroic act by a Birmingham man :—

Dec. 19, 1803.—On Friday, the cap of liberty, which was placed upon the top of Pompey's pillar by the French, as a memorial of their conquests in Egypt, and taken from thence by Lieut. George Meredith, of this town, was suspended with much solemnity from the ceiling of the Great Hall, in the British Museum, to be preserved with other monuments of British triumph.

The next two extracts need no comment :—

ONE HUNDRED POUNDS REWARD.

Dec. 19, 1803.—Whereas Two Anonymous Letters, signed the one "A Private in the Third Battalion," the other "A Private in your Regiment," have been lately addressed to Lieut.-Colonel Johnstone, of the Third Battalion of Loyal Birmingham Volunteers, in which the Writer or Writers threaten to shoot Lieut.-Colonel Johnstone, the first time the Regiment fires—a Reward of One Hundred Pounds is hereby offered by the Committee of the Loyal Birmingham Volunteers for the Detection of the Author: if more than one is concerned, and will impeach his Accomplice or Accomplices, application will be made to his Majesty for a Pardon. BARKER and UNETT, Secretaries.

December 26, 1803.—We learn with regret that there yet are individuals so totally devoid of principle as to continue to address letters to Lieut.-Colonel Johnstone, of the Third Battalion of our Volunteers, threatening his personal safety; and we do most sincerely hope that the steps now taking may succeed in bringing to the merited punishment persons guilty of so diabolical a practice. Independent of the reward of £100 offered by the Committee for the discovery of the offenders, the Captains of the Battalion have offered 100 guineas, the Subalterns 100 guineas, and the Serjeants 31 guineas.

Field-days and reviews followed in rapid succession; and everywhere the people beheld "the pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war," with very few of its perils, although they had their share in the sufferings which it produced. The enthusiasm, however, increased. By January 30, 1804, the ladies' subscription for providing flannel dresses had exceeded £1,000. "Most highly," said the editor, "do we applaud that generosity our fair townswomen have displayed in so liberally answering the call of the committee, and congratulate them on the probability that now appears of the speedy completion of a work at once so useful and patriotic." In February "The Committee beg leave to inform the Subscribers that 3,600 Waistcoats and 1,800 Pair of Drawers are now completed—1,800 Flannel Caps remain to be made. The Committee will be obliged to those Ladies who may be disposed to make any part of them, to send to the Blue Coat Charity School for them."

The method adopted for signalling parade is curious and worth quoting:—

LOYAL BIRMINGHAM VOLUNTEERS.

February 20, 1804.—The following signals for the parade or assembly of the battalions are in future to be hoisted on St. Philip's Church:—

First Battalion	A Ball.
Second	A Pendant.
Third	Two Pendants.
First, Second, and Third . .	A Ball over two Pendants.
First and Second	A Ball and a Pendant.
First and Third	A Ball between two Pendants.
Second and Third	Two Pendants over a Ball.

The signals to be continued until the battalions are dismissed ; and to be withdrawn if any cause prevent their assembling.

On the following week a change was made :—

February 27, 1804.—The signals arranged for assembling the Loyal Birmingham Volunteers being considered too complicated, the following are to be made use of in future, and displayed at the top of St. Philip's Church :—To call out the

First Battalion	A Ball.
Second Battalion	A Flag.
Third Battalion	A Pendant.

In June our chronicler pronounces the following eulogy on our armed citizens :—

BIRMINGHAM VOLUNTEERS.

June 11, 1804.—To record the respective merits of the different Battalions of this truly valuable corps is a task peculiarly gratifying to our feelings, since it requires neither the oblations of flattery nor the sacrifice of truth. But in a body of men so laudably actuated by the same noble and generous emulation, it is difficult, perhaps impossible, to make distinctions ; we shall, therefore, confine ourselves to a plain narrative of their operations since they marched on permanent duty up to the period of their return, including the honourable and well-earned testimonies of approbation bestowed upon them from all quarters.

On Monday, the 4th of June, the first Battalion was reviewed on Whittington Heath, by Lieut.-General Gardiner. After going through their evolutions, they fired three volleys in honour of his Majesty's Birth-day. The whole of their manœuvres were executed in such a style of proficiency as to call forth the highest approbation from the General. On Wednesday they marched from Lichfield to this place, and were greeted on their return by the ringing of bells, and other public demonstrations of welcome and esteem.

On August 29, an enormous gathering of the people witnessed the interesting ceremony of the

CONSECRATION AND PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO THE LOYAL BIRMINGHAM VOLUNTEERS.

Sept. 3, 1804.—On Wednesday, the first and third battalions of our Loyal Volunteers (the second battalion having received its Colours from the hands of the Countess of Dartmouth, some months past) were presented with their Colours, given by the town, at Moseley Wake Green. The Committee had made the necessary preparations to render the spectacle interesting, while at the same time every precaution was adopted to avoid every confusion and accident. The assiduity of the gentlemen who had devoted their attention to these objects was amply gratified by its success. Not an accident of the least consequence occurred to mar the brilliancy of the scene, although upwards of 30,000 persons were present from the adjacent country.

The parishes of Edgbaston and Aston joined that of Birmingham in the formation of volunteer companies, and also in offering to furnish the

government with waggons, carts, horses, and drivers for the conveyance of troops, in case of invasion, to any part of the country. And thus for many more years the volunteer corps were ready and willing to defend their homes against any invader.

OUR FIRST STATUE.

On the 13th of September, 1842, Birmingham was visited by the German traveller, J. G. Kohl. The industries of the town astonished him; but in all other respects he did not think it entitled to much praise. He tells us that "as far as the useful arts are concerned, Birmingham may be a paradise, but with respect to the fine arts, it is a very desert. Of this I had occasion to convince myself at the theatre, where I made the discovery that even one of Shakespeare's masterpieces may be so played as to become wearisome." But even this discovery did not surprise him so much as the fact that we had only one statue. He says "Among the numberless Nelson statues to be seen in so many English towns, Birmingham has the smallest." After a short criticism of the work, he adds, "This statue, small as it is, is the only one, literally the only statue that Birmingham can boast of! a city of 200,000 living specimens of humanity, and only one marble man among them! In Rome and Athens there was probably a statue or a monument for every fifty inhabitants; but even in cities of more modern date, as Berlin or St. Petersburgh, there will scarcely be less than a statue for every 4,000 inhabitants. It may be questioned whether in the whole world another town of equal extent and importance could be found, so destitute of public monuments as Birmingham. Not only Liverpool, Manchester, and Glasgow, but even Newcastle, Bristol, and Hull, have more of embellishment to boast of, to say nothing of such magnificent cities as Dublin and Edinburgh. Birmingham and Leeds appear to me, among all the large towns of England, to be the two most destitute of taste, ornament, and enjoyment." If the worthy traveller were to visit us at the present time he would have to pass a different verdict. At all events, he might learn that when he visited the place we had not even one "marble man," for Nelson's statue is in bronze.

The English people have always taken more interest in, and displayed more love for their naval than their military establishments. They respect and honour the soldier; but they love as well as respect and honour the sailor. Our favourite heroes, from Lord High Admiral Howard and the "sea-dog," Drake, down to the present time are our great naval victors. At the very head of this long list stands the name of Nelson—the "saviour of the silver coasted isle," the "shaker of the Baltic and the Nile." He is our model hero; "tender and true," and "pure from taint of craven guile." When the news of his final victory reached England it was impossible to say which was the deepest and most manifest feeling displayed—joy for the triumph of our fleet, or sorrow for the death of our hero. The battle was fought on October 21, 1805, and the news was received in Birmingham on November 7:—

LORD NELSON'S VICTORY.

November 11, 1805.—This news, so glorious yet so melancholy, was received in this town early on Thursday morning, by an expresss sent from Plymouth to Mr. Gottwaltz, the postmaster of this place, who took every means to diffuse the joyful but unhappy tidings. Never was the victorious banner so darkened and discoloured as this has been by the death of the glorious and intrepid Chief, through whose skilful arrangements, aided by congenial spirits, the conquest was achieved. This fell discord marred the general harmony of opinion. Every man smiled at the great news of victory; but when the price was told the *smile* was followed by a *sigh*. The general sensation was one of gladness chastened by sorrow, such as it has never before been our lot to witness. The bells were rang with clangs of joy, but those demonstrations of triumph were again softened by the mournful peal of muffled bells. The inhabitants did not illuminate their houses upon this occasion, because the hero that so lately paid a visit to this place, and who many times since expressed himself highly pleased with the reception he met with, was no more! We have, however, great satisfaction in stating, from the most respectable authority, that it is in contemplation to request the High Bailiff to convene a meeting of the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood, to consider of the best means of testifying their veneration and esteem for the character of the conqueror of the battles of Aboukir, Copenhagen, and Cadiz; and of handing down to the latest posterity a memorial of their gratitude for his unexampled services to his King and Country.

The paper of the same date also contained the following, in large type, leaded :—

MORE GLORIOUS NEWS!!!

Nov. 11, 1805.—*Aris's Gazette* Office, half-past eleven o'clock, Sunday night.—We stop the press to announce that Mr. Gottwaltz, the Postmaster of this town, has this moment received an Express from the Postmaster of Bristol, containing the following despatch, from Mr. Hawker, agent, at Plymouth :—

"Plymouth, November 9, 1805.

"His Majesty's ship Æolus is just arrived, and brings an account that the Cæsar, Sir Richard Strachan, Courageux, Lee, Bellona, Pater, Namur, Halsted, Goliath, Barton, fell in with the Rochefort Squadron, and captured FOUR SAIL OF FRENCH SHIPS OF THE LINE, commanded by Du Monore, a Rear Admiral, and it is said he is on board the Æolus, and his flag has been sent on shore to our port.—I am, &c., &c., J. HAWKER.

"P.S.—I have just learned by a note from Admiral Young to General England that the four sail were of the number of those which escaped from Admiral Collingwood's Fleet."

Lady Pellew has a letter from Captain Halsted, which states that his ship has not suffered much in the action, and confirms the account that the four sail were part of the Cadiz Fleet, which came out of that port after the defeat of the Combined Fleet. The action lasted three hours and an half, and only thirteen killed and wounded in the engagement.

The mourning for Nelson's death was universal. Every Englishman shared in the general sorrow, and a whole nation put on the weeds of grief. A correspondent made the following suggestion, which, in this town, at least, was generally adopted :—

To the Printers of Aris's Birmingham Gazette.

November 11, 1805.—GENERAL MOURNING.—As it is unquestionably the wish of every British soul to show some distinguished mark of respect to the memory of our late gallant Nelson, and as it is very improbable, because it might be improper for many reasons, that Government should order a public mourning for him, I would take the liberty of suggesting a mode by which the spontaneous sentiment of the nation, or rather of every individual in it, might be expressed without even the expence of a black garment, for the expence would prevent many anxious hearts from showing the respect they feel; and the late Court mourning having supplied what might be called the genteeler part of the community with sable habiliments, the appearance of a partial mourning would, at this moment, fail to be a distinction of that importance which the case demands. It will, no doubt, occur to you that the military style of expressing mourning by a black scarf on the arm is not only the most conspicuous but the simplest and cheapest; if, therefore, this mode was to be adopted by those that have not mourning already by them, there is no doubt but it would instantaneously become general, for every one (except those whose religious tenets do not allow them to wear the symbols of grief), could directly furnish himself with a yard of crape, or even a ribbon, and this mode has the advantages of enabling the poor, as well as those in easy circumstances, to express their sense of gratitude and respect to the memory of an hero of such wonderful achievements. Yours, &c.

In less than a week after the receipt of the news the energetic spirit of the town displayed itself in discussing the question, How best to do honour to the memory of the dead? On November 19 we read, "The High Bailiff has convened a general meeting of the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood on Friday next, to take into consideration some plan for erecting a Monument, Statue, or Pillar to the memory of the

late gallant hero, Lord Nelson, which, we doubt not, will be most numerously attended. The erection of some kind of monument to the memory of such departed greatness is most certainly due from every commercial place, and the inhabitants of this town will, we trust, hold out a most noble example of what should be done to commemorate a man that has so often raised the drooping spirits of his country. Whatever plan is adopted, whether statue or pillar, it will, no doubt, be erected in the most frequented part of the place, the oftener to excite emulation in others. The spot near where the old Cross once stood is suggested as the properest place, as there the inhabitants and strangers will have more frequent opportunities of being reminded of a character which holds out so many objects of imitation—as a warrior, a christian, and a man! We hope and trust that a dutiful and loyal address of congratulation and condolence to his Majesty, on account of the late victories and death of Lord Nelson, will be adopted at the Town's Meeting to be held on Friday."

The meeting was held on November 23, and it was "unanimously resolved that some monument, statue, or pillar should be erected, by subscription, in this town, to commemorate the glorious achievements of the Hero that fought, conquered, and fell at the battle of Trafalgar."

One enthusiastic correspondent advocated a

NAVAL PILLAR.

To the Printers.—Gentlemen,—To such a man as NELSON, dying such a death—a man who possessed the *quiddam divinum* of the *Scipios*, and who died the death of Epaminondas, grateful antiquity would eagerly have erected monuments, statues, trophies, the naval pillar, and the triumphal arch. Britain, inheriting the Roman soul, will, no doubt, soon exhibit similar veneration for her departed warrior, the bravest among the brave, the pattern of the officer, and the darling of the sailor. Already has the poet strung his lyre, the sculptor prepared his chisel, and the painter his colours. Birmingham cannot endure to be left behind in this glorious competition to lament and praise a commander who can never be sufficiently lamented and praised. To Birmingham the name of Nelson is endeared by a train of interesting recollections. Not long since our bells, which the other day mourned his death with muffled sounds, announced in clamours of joy his happy arrival among us. Well do our gentry recollect his manly, condescending politeness, and our populace his noble weather-beaten countenance. He gave and he received genuine satisfaction; spoke in rapturous terms of our ingenuity and improvements, and was perfectly delighted with our loyalty and public spirit. Shall we, of all others, be deficient in testimonies of respect and affection to the man who *respected* us—the hero who has served his country with the loss of his invaluable life? Forbid it, British gratitude and British feeling!

With pride and pleasure be it announced that it is in immediate contemplation to erect in this town a public memorial to such exalted virtue; and it is humbly suggested that a NAVAL PILLAR will be the most appropriate and the most classical, and that a tribute of Birmingham gratitude will look better if executed by Birmingham artists, who, there is abundant reason to believe, are fully adequate to the subject.

Such a memorial will be far more meritorious than those which decorate the city of Rome. The pillars of Trajan and of Antonine were erected to gratify vain-glorious conquerors, while ours will owe its origin to public gratitude and veneration for the best and bravest of our Admirals, who seemed peculiarly destined to revive the drooping spirits of his country: who, after a series of achievements equally splendid and opportune, and after having been repeatedly mangled in our service, died, *smilingly* died, in the midst of unparalleled victory. This cannot be construed into a *munus inane*, an empty unavailing honour: on the contrary, it has a direct tendency to animate posterity to similar exploits, and form the future hero. Such monuments of piety and patriotism as the FREE CHURCH and NELSON'S COLUMN will throw a wreath of glory round Birmingham to "the last syllable of recorded time." I am, Gentlemen, yours, &c.

The subscriptions came in rapidly. In a fortnight £1,500 had been promised, and the treasurer, before the close of the year, had purchased £600 in the Four per Cents. with a part of the sum collected.

Nelson was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral, on the 9th of January, and "the bells of the churches in this town began tolling at six o'clock in the morning, and continued the mournful knell throughout the day. The same testimonies of reverence and attachment were observed, on this occasion, by the neighbouring towns and parishes."

In May, 1806, the committee received models and designs from several artists for the proposed memorial; and from a paragraph which appeared on the 19th we learn something of the diversity of opinion which prevailed on this subject :—

NELSON'S PILLAR.

The question will soon be brought before the subscribers, for their decision, whether a monument, statue, or pillar is to be erected in this town to the memory of Lord Nelson. A correspondent suggests :—"That a pillar would be the most appropriate memorial that can be erected to perpetuate the name of the illustrious chief. Our departed hero, who was composed of materials truly British, might be justly compared to a stately English oak, that has long undauntedly stood the ravages of storms and tempests: therefore, to commemorate Nelson's heroic deeds, some pillar should raise its elevated head, which, like the 'giant of the forest,' will be seen and be venerated, will endure and be admired, for ages long to come." Another correspondent recommends that the funds should be expended in a charitable purpose.

"Our ingenious townsman," Mr. Hollins, desired to combine the useful and the beautiful in the following rather peculiar manner :—

LORD NELSON.

June 9th, 1806.—Our ingenious townsman, Mr. Hollins, has made a drawing of a memorial to be erected in this town, which consists of a pillar one hundred feet high, *with an appropriate building with two fronts, suitable for a dispensary and a post-office, or for other public business.* The plan, we doubt not, will meet the support of a large majority of the subscribers to the Nelson Fund, as it at once combines a regard to the memory of our naval conqueror, the cause of humanity, of public usefulness, and will be a great ornament to the place. The drawing may now be seen at the printers of this paper.

From a large number of letters which appeared on this subject I select three, which will show at once the interest which it excited, and the diversity of opinion amongst the leaders in the proposed memorial. They are all from the *Gazette* of June 9, 1806.

LORD NELSON.

That a proposal to unite substantial Good with a grateful Memorial should either be censured or ridiculed, to impartial minds, must appear extraordinary. But Censure or Ridicule, when improperly directed, have neither Force nor Poignancy. It is impossible that any Representation of the departed Hero should be mistaken, as that Alexander or Julius Cæsar should be forgotten. It is little to the purpose to state by whom the proposal was first made; but the Insinuation that it is brought forward in Compliance with the Wishes of a certain Denomination of Christians is at once erroneous, invidious, and irrelevant. The Plea of Deception upon the Contributors falls to the Ground, when they themselves are respectfully requested to direct the arrangement of the Plan: and it will not be easy to prove that, when two Designs are invited, one of them is destroyed or injured. A plain Understanding would rather infer that each will strengthen the other, and that the Advocates of such an Union may lay Claim to as unsullied Purity of Intention as they who oppose it: and all should recollect, that no such Purity can exist where there is the least Irritation or Resentment.

June 7th, 1806. R. PRATCHETT.

To the Printers.—Gentlemen,—The Columns of your Paper prove that there is some amicable Discord respecting the Mode of celebrating our illustrious Hero, "*battle-slain.*" The patriotic Oppositionists may be divided into three Classes: the first and most numerous are in favour of a Naval Pillar, or trophied Column; the second prefer a *Bronze* Statue: and the third, small in Number, but highly respectable in Character, seem desirous of connecting the Name of Nelson with an enlarged Dispensary. With deference to my Fellow-Subscribers, I cannot help giving a decided preference to the first Mode of Celebration, as the most classical and appropriate, the most characteristic and sublime. Common Heroes have been honoured with Statues: Nelson's Merits are of *colossal* Magnitude: compared with the Grandeur of his Achievements a mere Statue, whether of Bronze or of Marble, dwindles into Insignificance. My Feelings will not suffer me for a Moment to countenance such a trivial Tribute to transcendent Excellence. Milton seems to have been of the same Opinion when, speaking of Shakespear, he says,—

"What needs my Shakespeare, for his honour'd Bones,
The Labour of an Age in piled Stones,
Or that his hallow'd Relics should be hid
Under a star-ypointed Pyramid?
Dear Son of Memory, great Heir of Fame,
What need'st thou such weak Witness of thy Name?
Thou, in our Wonder and Astonishment,
Hast built thyself a live-long Monument,
And so sepulchr'd in such Pomp dost lie.
That Kings for such a Tomb would wish to die!"

The lofty Genius of Milton never thought of such a puny Memorial as a Statue; he fixes upon a "star-ypointed Pyramid" as the noblest Tribute of national Esteem, but considered even *that* unnecessary, because Shakespeare, like Nelson, was "sepulchred in the Heart."

Yet, though the Pillar towers far above the Statue in Point of Grandeur and Sublimity, it seems desirable to preserve the Lineaments of the Hero, sculptured by the Hand of Genius in *everlasting* BRASS; and it is equally desirable that his glorious Life, and still more glorious Death, should operate as a Stimulus to Benevolence and Humanity. Hence, therefore, it is devoutly to be wished that these three Schemes should be combined in one grand Whole, and that a Plan should be adopted that would equally gratify the Lover of his Country, the Amateur of the Arts, and the Patron of the Sick and helpless Poor. On this broad, liberal, and accommodating Principle, Mr. W. Hollins, a Native of this Town (whose Ingenuity is well known, and whose Nativity, I trust, will not operate to his Disadvantage), has drawn a Plan worthy, in my Opinion, of Eulogium and Adoption. It contains a noble Grecian fluted Pillar, 100 feet high, properly embellished, and accommodated with an internal Staircase. At the Bottom are three grand Compartments, on which may be sculptured, in high or low Relief, the most splendid of Nelsonic Victories, and abundant Space is reserved in a Niche for the Introduction of the favourite Bronze Statue. As a back Ground to this magnificent Column, he has designed an Edifice, equally commodious and elegant, one Part of which may be used as a Dispensary, and the other as a Post Office. The Situation proposed is the Bottom of Bull Street, on the Supposition of Mr. Knight's House being taken down. It is spacious and conspicuous, and being central is eligible, particularly with respect to a Post Office. The Whole will form a striking Assemblage of Use united with Ornament and Patriotism with Charity.

The only rational Objection to this Plan is a *defectus crumen*, or Insufficiency of Fund; but let it be considered, that the Advocates of a Dispensary will, it is hoped, enlarge their former Subscriptions, and that an opulent and liberal Sect, who detest War, and shudder even at Military Heroism, will, it is expected, make a handsome Donation to the same excellent Charity. Add to this that there is no Reason to distrust the Liberality of Ministers, should that Part of the Plan which regards the Post Office be adopted; and that they will do so, we may readily believe, since it is connected with the noblest Principles and most patriotic Views, and will be equally honourable to the Town and advantageous to the Kingdom. Lastly, let it be considered that great Efforts, though unsuccessful, are always meritorious.

A SUBSCRIBER.

MEMORY OF LORD NELSON.

To the Printers.—Had I not read in the Commercial Herald of the Second Instant, in the Reasons given for preferring a Statue to a Pillar with Astonishment, "Because there at present exists no situation in Birmingham, in which a Pillar can be advantageously placed," I should not have troubled you with any Thoughts of mine; but have now to beg the Favour of you to publish, in your Paper of Monday next, the following Reasons why I think a Pillar preferable to a Statue:—

Not because there is not any Person in Birmingham who may be competent to the Completion of a Bronze Statue, but because a Pillar would be a much more conspicuous Ornament, and may be so constructed as always to convey the Idea for which it was erected. Because there are Artists in this Place who are capable of designing and erecting a Pillar, which will do Credit to the Town and Honour to the departed Hero. Because it may be composed of Materials, and in a Manner, that will last for Ages without Repair, and be of singular Use in the Celebration of all future Naval Victories. Because there is already existing in this Town a place where a Pillar may be erected with every Advantage of Uniformity of Building and Elevation of Ground. And the Place alluded to is now without any specific Title, except that of its quadrangular Form, than which I know not what can be more appropriate to the Base of a Pillar, and henceforth may be called Nelson's Square, which will perpetuate the memory of our Hero to the latest Posterity. Because it is presumed that this Ground may be had without expence to the Town, and whatever may be erected in the Centre thereof, will not only be seen from the Grand Avenues of the Town, but at the greatest distance from the Place, it being *many Feet more* elevated than any Spot where such a Building can with any Propriety be placed. Because it may be less liable to Accidents in this Place, yet sufficiently seen, than if erected in a more public Situation. If this Ground can be had, the Erection will be proceeded upon without Delay, and if a proper Fence be put round the Pillar there will be no Occasion for the present Railing, whereby the passage through the Square will be rendered much more commodious, and, I trust, thought congenial with the present liberal prevailing Spirit of Improvement.

MERCATOR.

June 7th, 1806.

All these differences of opinion were set at rest at a meeting of the subscribers, held on June 13, at which it was resolved that a statue should be erected from the model presented by Mr. Westmacott, and a committee was appointed "to carry the resolution into effect." At another meeting, held at the beginning of December, 1807, the site was determined:—

NELSON'S STATUE.

December 7th, 1807.—At a meeting last week the committee appointed by the subscribers for raising a statue in this town to the momory of Lord Nelson, Mr. Westmacott, the artist employed, being present, it was resolved the most eligible place to erect a statue,

when finished, will be the centre of the Market Place, nearly opposite to the Dog Inn, subject, however, to the approval of the Commissioners of the Street Acts. The statue, we understand, is in great forwardness.

The Jubilee Day of George III. was selected on which to open the Nelson statue. At midnight the scaffolding was taken down, the people assisting the workmen in their labours ; and such was their enthusiasm that the whole was removed in a few minutes. On October 25, 1809, amid great rejoicing, the statue was opened to the public. A description of the work from the pen of the sculptor, Mr. Westmacott, was distributed to those present, and is as follows :—

In this work, intended to perpetuate the greatest example of naval genius, simplicity has been the chief object in the arrangement. The hero is represented in a reposed and dignified attitude, his left arm reclining on an anchor. He appears in the costume of his native country, invested with the insignia of those honours by which his sovereign and distant princes distinguished him. To the right of the statue the grand symbol of the naval profession is introduced. Victory, the constant attendant upon her favourite hero, embelishes the prow. To the left is disposed a sail, which, being placed behind the statue, gives breadth to that view of the composition. Above the ship is a fac-simile of the Flag Staff Truck of L'Orient, which was fished up by Sir Samuel Hood the day following the battle of the Nile, and presented by him to Lord Nelson, the same being deposited at Mitford as a trophy of that ever memorable action. This group is mounted upon a pedestal of statuary marble, a circular form having been selected as best adapted to the situation. To personify that affectionate regard which caused the present patriotic tribute to be raised, the town, Birmingham, is represented in a dejected attitude, murally crowned, mourning her loss ; she being accompanied by groups of genii, or children, in allusion to the rising generation, who offer consolation to her, by producing the trident and the rudder.

In front of the pedestal is the following inscription :—

THIS STATUE
IN HONOUR OF
ADMIRAL
LORD NELSON
WAS ERECTED
BY THE
INHABITANTS OF BIRMINGHAM.
A.D. M.DCCC.IX.

The whole is enclosed by iron palisadoes, in the form of boarding pikes, connected by a twisted cable, and at each of the four corners is fixed a cannon erect, from which issues a lamp-post, representing a cluster of pikes supporting a ship lantern.

Mr. Joseph Farror, an auctioneer, who lived in High Street, bequeathed the sum of sixpence per week, to be paid for ever out of the rent of a house in Bradford Street, for cleaning the statue and basement. The money to be received by the churchwardens of St. Martin's.

The first mention of our townsman, Mr. Samuel Lines, the artist, is in connection with Nelson's Statue. On November 6, 1809, a short paragraph informs us that "Mr. Samuel Lines, drawing master, of this place, has published an accurate likeness of the Nelson Statue, erected in this town, drawn and etched by himself."

CHAPTER III.—1811–1821.

§ 1. APPEARANCE OF THE TOWN.

Slowly, but surely, the town is encroaching on the country, and, bit by bit, Birmingham is losing its rural picturesqueness and country aspect. It will be a long time yet before all its gardens and pleasant suburbs are absorbed by the growing demand for new habitations for the ever-increasing people. The rapid growth of population is especially due to the enormous immigration which was continually going on from all the surrounding towns and villages, and from places far away throughout the kingdom. We shall see that the pleasant vales and beautiful hill country of Wales send their quota of food-seekers here, who formed quite a little colony to themselves. From the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, they came; and all strangers were welcome. For Birmingham was a free town. No guild or corporation imposed rules of restriction upon citizenship; and so the industrious, the ingenious, and the persevering found this their natural home, where each could develop his abilities unfettered, and at once profit by the gifts with which he was endowed. Still, notwithstanding this perpetual flow of immigrants, the town continued for some years yet to wear those country robes of garden and field, which, combined with its admirable situation, made it, even in the memories of men not farther advanced towards the "sere and yellow leaf" than the present writer, a place lovely to behold. The stranger visiting us in this year of grace, 1868, can form no idea of the extreme beauty of the Birmingham of the present decade.

We now proceed to cull a few examples illustrative of the appearance of the town between 1811 and 1821. And first we quote two advertisements of gardens at Summer Hill:—

March 16, 1812.—To be Sold, and immediate Possession given, a Garden, No. 72, in the Upper Walk, facing the Bottom of Summer Hill Terrace, in a high State of Cultivation,

and well planted with valuable and useful Fruit Trees, in full Bearing; there are two large and productive Asparagus Beds, a Brick Summer House, with boarded Floor, Tool-house adjoining, &c., &c.

The next advertisement takes us to a place once famous for pleasant rambles in the "gloaming." It was the haunt of "happy lovers," and hence its name. Yet this "Love Lane" was close to the Crescent, and very appropriately close to the Cottage of Content :—

GARDEN ON SALE.

May 11, 1812.—To be Sold, a Garden in Love Lane, near the Cottage of Content, well planted with Gooseberry and Currant Trees, fine Raspberries, Flowers, Shrubs, &c., and stocked with Asparagus, and Vegetables of various kinds, containing a Summer House, a shaded Seat, &c. The Rent is one Guinea per Annum.

At this date Camden Hill Villa was a very pleasant country residence; a house to which a wealthy merchant or a hard-worked professional gentleman could retire at the end of the day and enjoy his *otium* with satisfaction :—

CAMDEN HILL VILLA.

April 26, 1813.—To be Sold, by private Contract, that beautiful Villa, the Residence of Mr. John Pickering, delightfully situated on Camden Hill, in the Neighbourhood of Lady Wood, Birmingham Heath, and Soho, and commanding in Prospect the Dudley and Rowley Hills, Barr Beacon, and an Extent of rich and varied Country.

The House is a modern Structure, with a Stone Portico and Steps to the Front, and Verandahs to the principal Windows, containing Breakfast Room, 15 by 14; Parlour, 18 by 16; Dining Room, 21 by 16; and seven Lodging Rooms, with Out-offices complete, on a most convenient Plan.

The Lawn, ornamented Plantation, and Gardens are tastefully laid out, and the whole forms one of the most pleasant and desirable Residences in the Vicinity of Birmingham.

Apply to Mr. R. W. Gem, Solicitor, New Street.

Summer Row was at this period a place of gardens. Only those who remember this state of things can fully realise the picture contained in the following advertisement :—

May 31, 1813.—A large and very productive GARDEN to be SOLD, *in the first Row of Gardens beyond Saturday Bridge, on the Road to the Sand Pits*, in an excellent state of Cultivation.—Apply J. Jeavons, Gardener, No. 10, Summer Row.

From Summer Row we pass to Holloway Head, and there we find houses not only with gardens, but orchards :—

June 7, 1813.—A Pleasant House to be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, situate near the Windmill, Exeter Row, with a good Garden, Orchard, and Soft Water. Rent moderate.—Apply Mr. Jervis, Lombard House, Deritend.

The streets were not kept in a very good condition by our forefathers. The reports of accidents arising from the badness of the roads are common. We have not materially improved in this respect. Our streets are good and well made, but our care of them is often no care at all; and we trust to heavy rains to do our scavenger work. In the year 1814 Bradford Street was almost a new street. In the year 1868, some of our new streets might have been the scene of an accident like the following, had we not passed the coach era :—

Sept. 12, 1814.—We are sorry to learn that the Prince Regent coach, on its way out of Town, on Friday evening, was unfortunately overturned in Bradford-street, owing to the darkness of the night and the bad state of the road, by which unfortunate occurrence the coachman had his leg dreadfully fractured, and a gentleman was so much bruised that he has since continued in a state of complete insensibility. Several other passengers were much hurt. Upon enquiry we find that no blame can possibly be attached to the coachman.

We are also about to lose the Moat. The seat of the family of the Birminghams is to be converted into a cattle market. The glory of Pudding Brook is also about to pass away; and with it the mud in which unfortunate devotees of Bacchus so often stuck, and in which some of them lost their lives. The ancestral home of the lords of the manor, and its moat, "defensive to the house," have been bought by the Commissioners; and antiquity, historical associations, are as nothing to the urgent wants of the people. The markets had long been in unsuitable places, and were altogether inadequate for the growing demands of the farmers, butchers, and dealers; and so another link connecting us with the past is about to be destroyed, and being business men, the Commissioners go about their work in a most business-like manner. Here is their advertisement :—

New Smithfield.

March 27, 1815.—The Commissioners of the Birmingham Street Act do hereby give Notice, that they are in want of a Plan for adapting the Premises, which they have lately purchased, called the Moat and Moat House, for the Accommodation of the intended Smithfield, and they do hereby offer a Premium of Ten Pounds for the Plan which shall be most approved of, and Five Pounds for the next. Ground Sketches of the Premises may be had, and other Particulars known, by applying at our Office in New Street, Birmingham, where the Plans are to be delivered in by the respective Candidates on or before the 30th Day of March instant.

By Order of the Commissioners,

Smith and Arnold, Clerks.

In the next advertisement the advantages of a house are told in rhyme by the gushing agent :—

May 22, 1815.—To be Let, a House, at the top of Frederick Street, Harper's Hill.

The House genteel, compact, and neat,
The Neighbours kind, the Prospect wide,
The Water soft, the Yard complete,
And smaller Comforts well supply'd.

The next takes us to our old friend, Pudding Brook, once more :—

May 29, 1815.—To be Sold by Auction, by James Tregent, Senior, on Wednesday next, the 31st Day of May, between the hours of Five and Six o'clock in the evening, on the Premises, a GARDEN, situated on the third Walk on the left Hand leading from Hurst Street, Pudding Brook, Birmingham. The Garden contains choice Gooseberry, Currant, and other Fruit Trees and Variety of Vegetables, with a Wood Summer-house recently built.

Birmingham was, even at this period, and much later, *par excellence*, the place of gardens. These abounded in all parts of the town, and were let at all prices from ten shillings and sixpence a year. The "guinea gardens" were in very large numbers. It was a "hobby" with the Birmingham working-man, and the cultivation of flowers was carried to great perfection by him. Summer evenings and Sunday mornings were the usual times of labour in this his modern paradise; and on Sunday afternoons and evenings he used to take his wife and family to rejoice in his floral treasures. Until very recently there were large numbers of them near Bromsgrove Street, Essex Street, Holloway Head, and many other now almost central parts of the town; while the present Wheeler Street, the St. George's district, including Summer Lane, and the neighbourhood of Nova Scotia Street, were almost entirely covered with these "guinea gardens." On March 11, 1815, in a long advertisement of houses and other property to be sold, is included "the very excellent Garden, being number 154 in the third walk on the lower side of Nova Scotia Street." The increase of the population has absorbed them nearly all. A remnant of our former glories still exists in the vicinity of Saltley. I quote an advertisement of a "three guinea garden;" which also affords us a good illustration of the country aspect of the General Hospital at this time :—

CAPITAL GARDEN.

June 26, 1815.—By J. P. Tregent. To be Sold by Auction, on the Spot, on Friday, the 30th of June instant, at Six o'clock in the Evening, the Tenancy of a very productive

three Guinea Garden, abounding with numerous choice young Fruit Trees of superior Sorts, Flowering Shrubs, and Vegetables, a capital Wood Summer House, and a Pump of Soft Water; the whole judiciously displayed, situate and being the third Garden on the Left Hand side of the first Walk on the Right of Summer Lane, behind the Hospital, Birmingham.

An advertisement, September 4, 1815, announcing that that "capital Public House and Liquor Shop," the Saracen's Head in Snow Hill, is to be let, affords a good illustration of the enormous changes which, in a comparatively few years, have taken place in the town. It is described as a "first-rate situation;" and in a N.B., which, like a postscript to a lady's letter, is the most important part of it, we are told that "Snow Hill is one of the greatest Thorough-fares in Birmingham, upon the great North West Road, *and more than 40 Mails and Post Coaches pass daily*, and the Situation is really, without Flattery, inferior to none."

The following announcement of a sale recalls the old aspect of Temple Row, and gives some information on the improvements then being made in the town :—

Freehold Property in Temple Row, opposite St. Philip's, Birmingham.

May 13, 1816.—To be Sold by Auction, by Josiah and Cornelius Robins, on Tuesday, the 18th Day of June next,

Lot 1.—The very Excellent Retail Shop, of large Dimensions . . . . . together with the very genteel Family House connected therewith, affording ample Accommodation on a large Scale, with the Court Yard, Garden, and other Conveniences, according to the Plan, being No. 7 in Temple Row, with a Right of Road along the Passage or Entry into Cherry Street.

Lot 2.—The very respectable and well arranged Family House adjoining Lot 1, being No. 8 . . . . together with a Yard and Garden, and the joint Use of the said Passage into Cherry Street.

Lot 3.—The very capital Warehouses and Accompting House, with a three-stall Stable and other Premises, at the back of the two first Lots, having a good Road into Cherry Street. . . . The above highly respectable and desirable Property is Freehold, most pleasantly situate in Temple Row, opposite the Avenues and Area of St. Philip's, and is very important, being a neighbourhood very favourable for extensive Business, and at the same Time of the first Respectability as Gentlemen's Residences; *and will be greatly improved by the Range of central Street, or new western Road through the Town, intended to open Lines of Sight from the Hotel to Christ Church and Paradise Street.*

A garden with a fishpond near the Hospital is advertised for sale. The words at "the further end of the Avenue" refer to a pleasant state of things which has long ceased to exist :—

A large capital and highly cultivated Garden, planted with a great variety of choice Fruit Trees, Flowering Shrubs and Vegetables, having a neat Arbour and Fishpond therein, and the Walks tastefully laid out, well gravelled and boxed, situated at the further end of the Avenue, near the Hospital, Summer Lane, Birmingham.

Heath Mill Lane is soon to lose its distinctive character, and be cut up into building lots. In one advertisement we have a meadow, bounded by the river Rea, thus disposed of :—

July 1, 1816.—Freehold Messuages.—To be Sold by Auction, by Isaac Farror.

Lot 3.—The Tannery, near the High Street, in Deritend aforesaid, late in the occupation of the said Thomas Shayle, consisting of a Leather Warehouse, Back Sheds, Tan Yard, Tan Vats, Lime Pits, Stables, Pigsties, and Appurtenances. . . . . .

Lot 10.—Four front and two back Messuages, and part of a Meadow, containing in the whole 1,557 square yards, situated in Mill Lane aforesaid.

Lot 11.—Another part of the said Meadow, containing 11 yards to the front of Mill Lane, upwards of 60 yards in depth, and in the whole 982 square yards.

Lot 12.—Another part of the said Meadow, containing eleven yards to the front of Mill Lane, upwards of 60 yards in depth, and in the whole 885 square yards.

Lot 13.—Another Part of the said Meadow, containing eleven yards to the front of Mill Lane, upwards of 60 yards in depth, and in the whole 808 square yards.

Lots 3, 11, 12, and 13 are bounded on the North by the River Rea.

Many now living will remember the gardens alluded to in the following advertisement, and the lovely walk from the Deritend Brewery to Vaughton's Hole; now one of the least attractive parts of the town :—

August 5, 1816.—To be sold by Auction, by Dounes and Thomas, a remarkably choice GARDEN, at present in the Occupation of Mr. James Mason.

This delightful Garden is situated in the Avenue, leading from the Deritend Brewery to Vaughton's Hole, and is well stocked with Fruit Trees, selected with the greatest Care and Judgment, having produced the finest Fruit within several Miles of the Place, and for a number of Years gained the first Prizes at the annual Shew of Fruit, abounding in choice Flowers and Shrubs, and abundance of Vegetables, a capital Brick Summer House, and a Well always supplied with Water, the whole enclosed with a remarkably strong double Fence; the Soil is in high Condition, and in no Probability of ever being disturbed for building.

This will be found a desirable Opportunity for a Person wishing to purchase a Garden on which neither Pains nor Expence have been spared in bringing Things to perfection. The quality of the Fruit Trees exceeds all Comment, and are only to be appreciated by those who see them.

Tower Street was, in fact, in the country as recently as 1816, and houses, with "gardens behind, and plantations in front," were to be found

in it. Let the dwellers in that now not very pleasant street think of the time when the following advertisement was published :—

September 16, 1816.—Two genteel Houses, situated in Tower Street, Asylum Road, Birmingham. To be Sold by Auction, by Josiah and Cornelius Robins, at a time and place to be fixed in a future paper, unless disposed of by private Contract, two substantial newly-erected Residences, on a very convenient plan, with *Gardens behind and Plantations in front*, commanding extensive and varied Views in the Midst of the Improvements which are daily making in that increasingly respectable and pleasant Part of Miss Colmore's Estate, laying between Walmer Lane and Hockley Brook, being in Front of Tower Street, which is 16 yards wide, and the principal Road between those two Points, in the Environs of Birmingham.

The Buildings are well arranged, each House consisting of a neat Entrance and Hall, Parlour, Sitting Room, three Lodging Rooms, Kitchen, Laundry, Cellars, &c., the Whole well finished and fitted up in a neat manner. There is also a pleasant Garden of rich Soil at the back of each House, and the Front is tastefully laid out, the Buildings being set seven Yards from the Road, which is the judicious Plan acted upon on both Sides of the Street, making the whole Length open and airy, as well as pleasant and respectable.

The above are Leasehold for upwards of 95 Years, at a low Ground Rent. For other Particulars, and to treat for the same, apply to Messrs. Webb and Tyndall, Solicitors, Little Charles Street, or to the Auctioneers, New Street, all of Birmingham, where Plans may be seen.

The value of land has changed since the following advertisement appeared :—

September 30, 1816.—Valuable Situation in Islington Row, near the Five Ways. To be sold, by private Contract, a valuable Tract of Land, thirty Yards in Front, opposite the best Part of Islington Row, now used as a cultivated Garden, containing upwards of 2,000 square Yards, enclosed with lofty Walls, and is held by Lease for 99 Years, at about one Penny per square Yard, in the Parish of Edgbaston.

Enquire, &c., &c.

The new Cattle Market was opened on May 29, 1817. There is only the following anticipatory notice of this rather important event :—

May 26, 1817.—Our Whitsun Fair will be held on Thursday next, on which day the new Market Place, on the site lately occupied by the Moat Buildings, will be opened for the reception and sale of cattle, sheep, pigs, &c., and on the Tuesday following for hay and straw.—The sale of horses on the fair day will continue at the usual place.

The official notice was as follows :—

New Beast Market.

May 5, 1817.—Notice is hereby given, that the Land purchased for a Market Place, and commonly called and known by the Name of the Moat, will be completed and opened as a Market Place for the Sale of neat Cattle, Horses, Sheep, and Pigs, on Thursday, the 29th Day of May instant, being Whitsun Fair Day, and for the Sale of Hay and Straw on the Tuesday following; and if any Person or Persons shall, at any Time thereafter,

expose to Sale any neat Cattle, Horses, Sheep, and Pigs, Hay or Straw, in any other Part of the said Town, every such Person will, for every such Head of neat or other Cattle, or Load of Hay or Straw, be subject and liable to the Penalty of Twenty Shillings (except as to the Sale of Horses in the two public Fairs held in this Town, which will, on those Days, be held in a Place called the Horse Fair, as usual.)

By Order of the Commissioners,

SMITH AND ARNOLD, Clerks.

A garden and a water-mill were to be let near to the Smithfield Market :—

May 3, 1819.—To be Let, on a Building Lease for seventy-eight years, the Mill Garden, in Bradford Street, near Smithfield Market, containing 2,270 Square Yards; the Water from the Mill runs at the back of it.

In this year the Commissioners commenced a work which was greatly needed, and which, if it had been thoroughly carried out, would have materially improved the appearance of the town. Unfortunately the attempt was not supported by the inhabitants; and Birmingham remains to this day the worst paved of all our large towns :—

Sept. 13, 1819.—The Commissioners of our Street Act, we are happy to say, have adopted a plan which, if seconded by the inhabitants, will lead to the desirable result of having the footpaths of our principal streets well flagged. The many advantages that would be derived from such alteration must be so obvious that we are sure they can need no remark in recommendation of our townsmen's concurrence. Strangers have long, and with great reason, complained of the inconvenience and pain they suffer from walking our streets, in consequence of the present mode of paving them. We understand the Commissioners have authorised the Paving Committee to pay one-half of the expense of flagging any of the footpaths of the town, provided the inhabitants of the street will first raise by subscription, and pay into their hands, a sufficient sum to defray the other half; they are not, however, authorised to make engagements for less than one side of a street, or a distance of two hundred yards.

The aspect presented by Little Hill Street when the following advertisement was published is in striking contrast with that presented at the present time :—

CAPITAL GARDEN.

Oct. 18, 1819.—To be Sold by Auction, by H. P. Evans, this present Monday, October 18, on the spot, at Three o'clock in the afternoon, a capital GARDEN, in the Avenue leading from Little Hill Street, Bristol Street, and the last Garden in the first walk on the left-hand side.

From the advertisements of 1820, which relate to the appearance of the town, we select the following :—

GRAZING LAND.

May 22, 1820.—To be Let, and entered upon immediately, several Pieces of excellent Grazing Ground, now in capital condition, and very full of Grass, which may be had upon Lease for Garden Ground, situate in Warstone Lane, in the Parish of Birmingham.

For particulars apply to Messrs. Smith, Arnold, and Haines, Solicitors, Birmingham.

A CAPITAL GARDEN, HANDSOME DENNET GIG, &c.

July 3, 1820.—To be Sold by Private Contract, a large and most excellent Garden, fully planted with all kinds of choice Fruit Trees, Vegetables, scarce Flower Roots, Shrubs, &c., with a good Brick Summer-house, Tool-house, Arbour, Privy, and Pump; the same is situated among the upper Novascotia Gardens, commanding fine Views of the Country.

TWO CAPITAL GARDENS.

July 24, 1820.—To be Sold by Auction, on the Spot, by Isaac Farror, this present Monday, July 24, at Six in the Evening, in two Lots :—

Lot 1.—An excellent, well-planted Garden, abounding with the choicest Fruit Trees and Vegetables of all kinds, with a Well of good Water, and surrounded by a capital Fence, now in the highest possible State of Cultivation, having a remarkably rich Soil, pleasantly situated near the Sand Pits Terrace, being No. 139, in the Walk facing the new Road leading from the Crescent to the Sand Pits, Birmingham.

Lot 2.—Another Garden, adjoining the above, being 144, with Entrance up to the next Walk, also abounding with a great Variety of Fruit Trees, Vegetables, &c., having a neat, well-built Brick Summer-house therein.

A Person will attend to show the Gardens the whole of the Afternoon of the Day of Sale, and other Particulars may be known of the Auctioneer.

For 1821 the following brief references will suffice :—

June 18, 1821.—SUPERIOR GARDEN, tastefully laid out with Shrubs and Flowers.—By Roderick. To be Sold by Auction, on the Spot, without Rerserve, on Wednesday next, the 20th of June, a large, excellent, well-planted Garden, tastefully laid out with Shrubs and Flowers, boxed Walks, and containing several Hundred remarkably fine Filbert, Plum, Cherry, Apple, Pear, Raspberry, and Gooseberry Trees, Asparagus, Artichoke, and Strawberry Beds, and well stocked with Vegetables; it has a large Brick Arbour, Wood ditto, Privy and Wall, fenced all round, situate and being No. 18, in the first Walk beyond Thomas Hill's Gardener, in Walmer Lane, at the back of the Asylum. The Garden may be seen on Application to Thomas Hill, Gardener.

For particulars apply to the Auctioneer.

August 20, 1821.—We are glad to hear that it is intended by the Commissioners of our Street Acts, to make considerable alteration in the level of the steep descent of the High Street in this Town,

October 15, 1821.—To be Let, a good House and Premises, situated in Bradford Street, near Smithfield, consisting of six Bed Rooms, two Parlours to the Front, two Kitchens, with good Cellaring, together with Stabling and an excellent Garden, a Warehouse and Shopping attached thereto, and also a Corn Mill now in full work.

The above will be let free of Levies, and may be entered upon immediately.

For further Particulars apply to Thomas Gibson.

§ 2. PUBLIC LIFE AND EVENTS.

The public events of this decade are of a very varied and important character. In the public life of this period we first meet with many of the names which have since become famous, not only in our local, but in the national annals. We shall now frequently meet with Attwood and Spooner, Muntz and Scholefield, Edmonds and Salt, and the heroes of the Political Union, the agitators for and the procurers of the Reform Bill of 1832. It will be seen that these leaders took an active part in almost all the public events of their time, and proved themselves earnest workers for the prosperity of their native town, and that they earned and richly deserved the confidence and gratitude of their fellow citizens. They fought a good fight, and won a great victory, and added their names to the long list of Birmingham worthies.

The first public act of the decade was another vain attempt to form a Water Works Company.

On March 4 a meeting was held "to take into consideration the present state of the manufacturers and commerce of the United Kingdom and the propriety of petitioning both Houses of Parliament to discontinue such parts of the East Indian Charter as exclude British merchants from trading to the East." Thomas Attwood, Esq., the High Bailiff, opened the business with a long and interesting speech, of which a more than ordinarily full report is given; and the meeting resolved that "The commercial monopoly of the East India Company must be abolished."

In 1807, was issued the order in Council prohibiting all trade between England and the parts occupied by the French. In 1809, further orders were issued which placed still greater restrictions on Trade. The early part of 1812 was marked by great disturbances in the manufacturing districts. Mills were burnt, machinery was destroyed, and many murders committed. The merchants and manufacturers agitated for the repeal of the fatal orders in Council. Meetings were held in Birmingham, and very decided resolutions were passed on the subject. The agitation was so far successful that in June the orders were

revoked, so far as the U. S. of America were concerned. In March a very important meeting was held, in reference to the Birmingham Street Bill, at which it was resolved, that it contained :—" many unprecedented, arbitrary, and extraordinary powers which ought to be modified, or opposed."

One of the most earnest and devoted supporters of the General Hospital, and the master organiser of our great Musical Festivals, was Mr. Joseph Moore. For years he devoted himself to this work with that zeal, energy, and ability which in the end command success.* It is not the habit of Birmingham people to let such services as these pass unrecognised and unrewarded. Accordingly, on April 6, 1812, we read the following account of the manner in which the inhabitants testified their value of the labours of Mr. Moore :—

On Friday last, at the General Hospital, near this town, a splendid silver vase and stand, and four silver dishes, with covers, provided by a subscription of the gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, were presented to Mr. Joseph Moore, as an acknowledgment of his disinterested services to that most useful charity ; on which occasion the Rev. Dr. Outram, Rector of St. Philip's, spoke as follows :—

"Mr. Joseph Moore, it is a real gratification to me that it has fallen to my lot to present to you, in the name of a very numerous and most respectable body of gentlemen, these elegant and beautiful memorials of the high sense which they entertain of the services rendered by you to this excellent institution. They well know, sir, that the flourishing state of that important branch of its revenues which is derived from our Triennial Musical Festivals is to be attributed, in a great measure, to your humane, spirited, and successful exertions. For it deserves to be, and it will be, remembered, that, whereas, before you, sir, stepped forward in this cause, about thirteen years ago, the gross receipts from our festivals did not, in any instance, exceed the sum of two thousand and forty-three pounds; they have since that time progressively and rapidly increased ; so that at the festival celebrated in the month of October last, there were received, within three days, the sums to the unprecedented gross amount of six thousand six hundred and eighty pounds.—Sir, had a person of the highest *professional* fame, a Handel or a Haydn, effected this, it would, with reason, have been deemed a great and memorable work. But for a private gentleman, without any selfish end in view, without any other motive than that of compassion for the afflicted, to have combined repeatedly the first musical talents of the empire, and harmonized the jarring interests that are, perhaps, inseparable from such combination of skill, so as at length to have raised the Birmingham Festivals from the state of respectable country meetings to unrivalled, and what may justly be called *national* grandeur and celebrity, is an instance of enterprising and persevering philanthropy worthy to be recorded in the annals of any age or nation. It has been usual, sir, for public bodies of men to present to statesmen and warriors tokens of veneration, for their having, by their

*For a very good account of the services rendered by this "Birmingham Worthy," the reader is referred to "The Birmingham General Hospital, and the Triennial Festivals." [By J. T. Bunce.] p.p. 106-9.

counsels or their heroism established the independence and the glory of their country. Yours, sir, have not been services or triumphs of this nature. But it will be admitted that a tribute of respect, of esteem, of gratitude, is not less due to him, who, by enriching a great charitable asylum, established in the very heart of the kingdom, for the maimed, the diseased, and the destitute around it, has infused into the lower ranks, in which the physical strength of the community exists, a love of their country, and thereby added to the power of the national arm, which has so often, under the divine Providence, been found irresistible in the heat of battle. It is, sir, in acknowledgment of such benefits, conferred by you on the place in which we live, and on our country, that I now present to you what I have in charge. And although you have generously declined receiving any acknowledgment provided from the funds of this charitable institution, yet this vase, and these other memorials, provided, as they have been, in a manner so highly creditable, both to them that give and to he that takes, you will not, I trust, hesitate to accept; and long, very long, may you live in health and happiness to view them. May these, when you behold them, bring to your mind reflections that will cheer and comfort you in days of health or hours of sickness! And when you are removed to another state of being, where the bright rewards of true charity await you, may they, as hallowed gifts consecrated at the shrine of Benevolence, be preserved by those to whom you shall bequeath them, and by their posterity, without spot or blemish, for ever!"

Mr. Moore replied in the following words:—

"Sir,—My humble services to this great charity, whose interests I shall ever have at heart, must, I fear, have been much too highly appreciated. But it is more gratifying to me than I can express, to receive these valuable presents thus offered on the part of those whose approbation and good opinions are most dear to me. To them my warmest acknowledgments will be always due; and to you, sir, for the very flattering terms in which you have been pleased to convey their generous sentiments to me, I beg leave to return my sincere and respectful thanks."

Distress was producing its usual results. The people were becoming discontented, and displayed a tendency to riot. On April 27, we read:—

A disposition to tumult, we are sorry to announce, was manifested by the populace in this town last week, who assembled on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, in large numbers in the Market Place, and proceeded to some acts of violence; but the prompt, judicious, and decisive measures pursued by the Magistrates, aided by the police officers, the North British Dragoons, the Warwickshire Yeomanry, the Handsworth Cavalry, a party of Marines, and other military, speedily restored good order, and the town has been free from the least appearance of riot since Wednesday evening.

FATAL EFFECTS OF RIOTS.

April 27th, 1812.—William Cotton, Thomas Davis, and Matthew Ruston, were found guilty of beginning to demolish and pull down the dwelling house of Mr. John Wheeley, of Edgbaston, near this town, and received sentence of death at a late Assize for this county, but which sentence was commuted to transportation for, and during, their natural lives. From the fate of these young men, let youth in every situation of life take an impressive warning, and resist, with firmness, under whatever form it may present itself, every temptation to outrage and riot. These unfortunate prisoners, who in the first

BIRMINGHAM STAGE-COACH,

In Two *Days* and a half; begins *May* the 24th, 1731.

SET Sout from the *Swan-Inn* in *Birmingham*, every *Monday* at six a Clock in the Morning, through *Warwick*, *Banbury* and *Alesbury*, to the *Red Lion Inn* in *Alderſgate ſtreet*, *London*, every *Wedneſday* Morning: And returns from the ſaid *Red Lion Inn* every *Thurſday* Morning at five a Clock the ſame Way to the *Swan-Inn* in *Birmingham* every *Saturday*, at 21 Shillings each Paſſenger, and 18 Shillings from *Warwick*, who has liberty to carry 14 Pounds in Weight, and all above to *pay One Penny a Pound*.

Perform'd (if God permit)

By Nicholas Rothwell.

The Weekly Waggon ſets out every *Tueſday from the Nagg's-Head in* Birmingham, *to the* Red Lion Inn *aforeſaid*, every *Saturday*, *and returns from the ſaid Inn* every *Monday*, *to the Nagg's-Head in Birmingham* every *Thurſday*.

Note. *By the ſaid* Nicholas Rothwell *at* Warwick, *all Perſons may be furniſhed with a* By-Coach, *Chariot*, *Chaiſe*, *or Hearſe*, *with a Mourning Coach and able Horſes*, *to any Part of Great Britain*, *at reaſonable Rates*: *And alſo Saddle Horſes to be had.*

instance, might have joined the mob with the intention of witnessing only the acts of others, were induced to commit a capital felony, for which crime they justly forfeited their lives to the laws of their country. By an act of Royal mercy, they have been permitted to live, but under the bitter reflection of being estranged from all their dearest connexions in this world for ever.

The usual efforts were made to relieve the distress :—

TOWN'S MEETING.

May 4, 1812.—On Friday a meeting of the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood was held at the Public Office, which was most respectably attended, to take into consideration the best mode to be adopted at this juncture for the relief of the poor. A most liberal subscription was entered into, and a committee appointed to carry the laudable view of the meeting into effect.

The object of the Committee will be to procure such articles as will reduce the consumption of flour, meat, and potatoes. With this view, large purchases will be made at distant markets, and which will be distributed to the poor at half price. This at present is the outline of the plan which is to be adopted; and we trust that every one will contribute according to his ability in aid of a measure upon which the comfort and welfare of the town so materially depends. It being intended that each subscriber shall have a number of tickets proportionate to the amount of his subscription, it is evident that the master manufacturers will thereby have the opportunity of relieving those who are immediately under their employ.

On May 14, we read that the "bill for enlarging the powers of the Birmingham Street Acts passed the House of Lords, on Saturday." [May 12.]

Here is the record of the starting of our first Royal Mail :—

June 1, 1812.—On Tuesday last the new Birmingham and London Royal Mail Coach, established for the particular accommodation of this town and neighbourhood, set out from the Swan Hotel, at four o'clock, the bells of St. Martin's Church ringing, and thousands of spectators assembled on the occasion, greeting it as it passed with cheering shouts.

About two o'clock the same day the coach, attended by eight mail guards in full uniform, adorned with blue ribbons, paraded the streets, under the direction of Mr. Hart, stopped at the residences of the High and Low Bailiff, the several banks, and many of the principal inhabitants; the procession closed after it had remained some time at the house of Mr. Prachett, High Street, where, as at the other resting places, the attendants were liberally supplied with wine, biscuits, sandwiches, &c. The carriage, horses, and harness were in a style of splendour and excellence we had not before witnessed, and reflect great credit upon our spirited townsman, Mr. Dunn; public patronage we doubt not, will amply repay him and the other Contractors for the expense and risque they have incurred in this attempt to afford greater facilities to the commercial intercourse between this town and the metropolis, both by gaining an additional hour to answer letters by return of post, and enabling the public to insure places in the mail to London, instead of waiting as formerly for a vacancy, the chance of which was always very precarious.

The next extract to our mind records a most important event. It is the first instance we have of the artisans taking any part in public life —unless we look upon their doings at the riots of 1791 as having a prior claim. This first appearance in public life is honourable to their sense of right, and is an instance of the gratitude which working men have always manifested towards those who have rendered them a service. This report is also noticeable as being the first which we have met containing the name of George Edmonds. It was published in the paper of June 22 :—

At a numerous and respectable Meeting of the Artizans of Birmingham, held pursuant to public advertisement, at the Shakespear Tavern, in this town, this 17th day of June, 1812, "to consider the best Means of expressing their Gratitude to those Gentlemen of Birmingham who have so laudably exerted themselves to restore the suspended Trade, and also to those who have so benevolently subscribed to the relief of the Poor of this Town;" Mr. John Steer in the Chair :

Resolved unanimously,—That they who endeavour to promote the Commercial Prosperity of the Country, upon which its Welfare and Happiness so materially depend, deserve the lasting gratitude of the People.

Resolved unanimously,—That we have seen with great satisfaction the laudable exertions of our principal Merchants and Manufacturers to call the attention of Parliament to the present deplorable state of Trade, and the consequent distresses of the labouring Mechanics.

Resolved unanimously,—That, being deeply impressed with a Sense of our Obligations to those our fellow townsmen, we beg them to accept of our most cordial and heartfelt Thanks.

Resolved unanimously,—That in particular we would offer our unfeigned thanks to Thomas Attwood, Esq., High Bailiff of Birmingham, for his invaluable services in this Cause; services which it were needless to recapitulate, as they are without doubt engraven on the Memory of every Mechanic of the town.

Resolved unanimously,—That, as a farther expression of our gratitude to Thomas Attwood, Esq, High Bailiff, a subscription be immediately entered into to defray the expence of a Piece of Plate, with a suitable Inscription, to be presented unto him; and as we consider it desirable to have numerous rather than large subscriptions, that no person be allowed to give more than sixpence.

Resolved unanimously,—That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Thomas Phipson, Esq., Low Bailiff, for his hearty co-operation with his worthy Colleague.

Resolved unanimously,—That the especial thanks of this Meeting be given to Richard Spooner, Esq., for the Firmness and Eloquence which he has displayed on various public occasions when the Interests of the Mechanics have been concerned.

Resolved unanimously,—That we should consider ourselves wanting in gratitude did we not embrace the opportunity of expressing our acknowledgments for the very liberal

contributions made by the wealthy Inhabitants of this Town for the Relief of the Poor; and we request them to accept our thanks for their beneficence.

Resolved unanimously,—That the following persons be appointed a Committee to carry the above Resolutions into effect, with power to add to their number as they may think proper:—

John Steer,	William Jennings,	Thomas Taylor,
Joseph Wood,	James Connard,	William Latham,
James Boyce,	Samuel Thorpe,	William Bailey,
John Lane,	Joseph Bower,	William Dent,
Charles Kelk,	William Wight,	Jabez Aston,
John Bourne,	William Cox,	Edward Crowder.
John Hinks,	George Edmonds,	

Resolved unanimously,—That these Resolutions be advertised in such Newspapers as the Committee may think proper.

JOHN STEER, Chairman.

Mr. Steer having left the Chair,

Resolved unanimously,—That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Mr. John Steer, for his able and impartial conduct in the Chair.

GEORGE EDMONDS.

Here is the next appearance of our artisans in public life:—

REVOCATION OF THE ORDERS IN COUNCIL.

July 6, 1812.—The Artizans of this town being informed that Mr. Richard Spooner and Mr. Thomas Potts, (two of the deputies sent from hence to procure this important measure) would return from London on Wednesday, they were determined to meet them near the town, and shew them that respect the conduct of the Deputation merited from their townsmen. Accordingly they assembled at the Shakespear Tavern, in New-street, early in the afternoon, and at four o'clock, notwithstanding the heavy rain which fell, and continued almost without intermission during the remainder of the day, they formed in procession, preceded by a band of music playing the loyal national air of "God save the King," and paraded through the principal streets, and reached Camp Hill, the spot where it was expected to meet the Deputation at about five o'clock. After waiting about half an hour, the approach of the Deputies was announced, and the Committee of Artizans, with their chairman at their head, proceeded to meet them. The carriage, which was drawn by four horses adorned with blue ribbons, contained Messrs. Spooner and Potts. The horses were taken off, and the carriage drawn by the multitude, rending the air with their acclamations.

After proceeding in this manner for a few hundred yards, to that part of the road where the Committee of Artizans and the band were endeavouring to press through the crowd, the carriage halted, and the Chairman of the Committee addressed the Deputation in a suitable speech. After the address the procession was formed, and proceeded to the town in the following order:—

PROCESSION.—Joint bands of two regiments of the Warwickshire Local Militia, in full uniform. Flag—"Friends of Commerce." The Committee of Artizans three abreast. Flag—"Birmingham has done its duty." Reverse—"Grateful Artizans welcome the

Deputation." The Committee, as before. Flag—"Attwood, Phipson, Spooner, Potts, and the Deputation." The carriage drawn by the populace.

The procession thus formed moved through the principal streets of the town, the windows of which were thronged with inhabitants, who congratulated the deputies as they passed along, and arrived at the Shakespear Tavern about eight o'clock, where the High and Low Bailiff and a number of other gentlemen were assembled to receive them. Mr. Spooner and Mr. Potts severally addressed the persons assembled in animated and appropriate speeches (which we regret our limits will not allow us to insert), at the conclusion of which the immense multitude collected on this joyful occasion quietly and peaceably dispersed.

There was great rejoicing in the town over this victory. At a public meeting all those noblemen and gentlemen who had assisted in procuring the revocation of the Orders in Council were warmly thanked. Mr. Brougham was especially signalled out, "for the great Zeal, Ability, and Perseverance he had so fully evinced by his unparalleled and successful Exertions in obtaining a Revocation of the Orders in Council, and for his truly eloquent Appeal to the House of Commons, on the 16th Inst., on Behalf of the Manufacturing and Commercial Interests of the United Kingdom." On August 1, the triumph was celebrated by a Public Dinner.

The following is a brief obituary which ought to find a place in this "chronicle":—

November 2, 1812.—Died, on Friday, after a long illness, at his house at Ashted, Mr. Myles Swinney, aged 74, nearly 50 years proprietor of "Swinney's Birmingham Chronicle."

The following extract contains information which must have delighted thousands of Birmingham mechanics at the time:—

March 22, 1813.—A Bill to regulate the business of the manufacturers of fire arms, was lately introduced in the House of Commons, and read a first time. Had the bill passed into a law, it would most materially have injured the trade of this town and neighbourhood, and, of course, was opposed, and with such success, that, on the second reading, on Tuesday, the bill was lost by a majority of 60; there being for the second reading 18, against it 78. The gentlemen deputed from this town to oppose the measure reached home on Friday, and were received with every demonstration of joy. The manufacturers are much indebted to Sir Charles Mordaunt, Mr. Dugdale, Lord Gower, Mr. Littleton, Mr. Peter Moore, the Hon. Mr. Ward, and other Members connected with this neighbourhood, for their exertions in opposing the obnoxious regulation.

Our armies in Spain, under Wellington, were this year achieving those victories which have made the Peninsular War so glorious in our military annals. On June 21, the battle of Vittoria was won, and King Joseph and General Jourdan were totally routed. The Birmingham

Gazette announced the intelligence, and ventured to prophesy on the occasion. It will be seen that the prediction was fully realised :—

July 12, 1813.—In our last publication we ventured to predict that, in consequence of the glorious intelligence received from Spain, a general illumination would take place in this town, and our prediction has been fully verified. The war carried on in the Peninsula is for a truly British object—the emancipation of a generous people from the cruel grasp of the most inhuman tyranny ever held over the human race ; and when this humane and laudable intention is on the point of being accomplished, and principally by the martial deeds of our own countrymen, it readily occurred that every Englishman (except he refrained from religious motives, or where scanty means bid him forbear), would, on such an occasion, hang up a light as a token of his joy !

So soon as the London Gazette Extraordinary was read on Monday morning, the inhabitants, as it were by common consent, began to make preparations, and in the evening a most brilliant and general illumination took place. Many appropriate transparencies and tasteful devices were displayed. The next time there is a similar cause for rejoicing, (and we trust the time is not far distant), we hope those whose duty it is, will point out when such demonstrations of joy should be testified, in order to obviate a complaint that has been made, that the inhabitants should have sufficient notice, and that the artists of the place may have an opportunity of displaying their talents and ingenuity.

The same paper which contained this report of the joy over our Spanish victories, publishes the following account of the

CONSECRATION OF CHRIST CHURCH.

On Tuesday last our venerable Bishop was received at the gates of the Free Church by the Trustees and Clergy, amidst a great concourse of spectators, whose conduct was highly orderly and respectful. His Lordship looked well, and went through the service with great ease and in a very impressive and effective manner. The music was ably performed through the voluntary exertions of the Choral Society of this town, and other eminent professional gentlemen. The opening with an appropriate hymn, to what is called the Old Bedford tune, was strikingly grand and impressive ; and the anthems gave great and universal satisfaction. The sentence of consecration was read by the Vice Chancellor, the Rev. Dr. Buckeridge, first Canon of the Cathedral Church of Lichfield. The prayers were read by the Rev. Edward Dales, Lecturer, and the sermon preached by the Rev. Dr. Outram, Rector of St. Philip's Church, from Matt. xi. 5, "The poor have the Gospel preached to them." In the course of this very excellent and impressive discourse, a just tribute was paid to our beloved Sovereign, and the other benefactors and contributors to so good a work ; and more particularly to the Bishop of the Diocese, for having given full effect to their munificence and benevolence, by a valuable grant of prebendal property for the support of a Minister of this Church for ever. The sum of £198 15s. 1d., was raised by tickets of admission and donations at the doors of the Church. In the afternoon a public dinner was given at the Royal Hotel, which was honoured with the presence of the Bishop, the Vice-Chancellor, Wm. Digby, Esq., and several of the Magistrates, the Gentry and Clergy. After dinner the Chairman (Dr. Outram) announced the kind intention of the Bishop to give £100 to be laid out in Bibles and Prayer Books for the use of the poor at the Free Church ; and the following, among other toasts were given :—Our revered Sovereign, the munificent Contributor to the Free Church."

The following is a list of the larger contributors to this noble undertaking :—

The King	£1000	0	0
J. H. Brown, Esq., and the Rev. T. Gisborne, as Trustees of the late J. Hawkins, Esq.	1000	0	0
J. H. Browne, Esq.	200	0	0
Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward	900	0	0
The Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, (including £100 for Bibles and Prayer Books)	600	0	0
The Earl of Warwick	500	0	0
Wriothesley Digby, Esq.	500	0	0
An unknown Benefactor, by Dr. Outram	500	0	0
The Rev. Dr. Madan	450	0	0
Lord Calthorpe	300	0	0
Heneage Legge, Esq.	300	0	0
Isaac Spooner, Esq.	300	0	0
Isaac Spooner, jun., Esq.	100	0	0
Edward Palmer, Esq.	250	0	0
James Woolley, Esq.	250	0	0
The late Earl of Dartmouth	200	0	0
The late Earl of Aylesford	200	0	0
Sir Charles Mordaunt, Bart., M.P.	200	0	0
Dugdale Stratford Dugdale, Esq. M.P.	200	0	0
The late Sir. John Mordaunt, Bart.	100	0	0
Thomas Whitmore, Esq., M.P.	200	0	0

. . . . . .

The day after the Consecration the Bishop confirmed in our two Parish Churches nearly 1700 persons, a number considerably exceeding that at the last Confirmation in the year 1810; and it was a most interesting and gratifying sight to observe so many amiable young persons testifying their deep sense of the momentous engagements they were taking upon themselves by their seriousness and devotion during the whole of this solemn and affecting ceremony.

Mr. R. Spooner was High Bailiff this year, and his term of office was distinguished by the formation of a Commercial Society, "for the purpose of collecting and comparing the opinions of its Merchants and Manufacturers, of acting as a Medium of Communication with Ministers and the Legislature on the subject of Trade, and of co-operating, as occasion may require, with other parts of the United Kingdom on questions affecting the general prosperity of the Manufactures and Commerce of the British Empire. The meeting was held on July 21, 1813; and it was resolved unanimously 'That the proposed Society be called the Chamber of Manufactures and Commerce of Birmingham.'"

Wellington continued his victorious march in Spain. On July 24th he besieged Pampeluna; and on the 28th Marshal Soult was defeated in the battle of the Pyrenees. The news of these fresh triumphs were thus received in Birmingham :—

MARSHAL WELLINGTON'S VICTORIES.

August 23, 1813. The telegraph dispatch announcing the battles of the Pyrenees was received in this town on Monday, and farther particulars of the gratifying intelligence were obtained soon after midnight. Mr. John Hart, the coach proprietor, of this town, had it appears, given directions that so soon as any satisfactory information of these great events could be obtained in London, one of his coaches was immediately to set off with all speed to Birmingham, and the Balloon post coach, through Coventry, was driven at so great a rate that it reached here before one o'clock on Tuesday morning! bringing a second edition of the *Times* newspaper. The coachman and guard soon gave notice to the inhabitants of the joyful tidings they had brought, and (it being Bell Wake) a large concourse of people very soon assembled, who set the ringers to clang the bells of St. Martin's and St. Philip's, and then drew the coach along the streets with cheers of congratulation and loud huzzas!

About noon the same day many thousand persons assembled to meet the mail coach, which arrived with decorations indicative of victory. The populace took out the horses at the commencement of the town, and dragged the coach to the Post Office, and afterwards through the principal streets. In the evening there was a general illumination.

Here is the first note of another noble work of Charity :—

Oct. 4, 1813.—It gives us much gratification to hear that a society is about to be established for the express purpose of affording relief to poor lying-in women. A meeting has been held, the result of which gives every reason to believe that the society will be well supported, and we doubt not will be essentially serviceable, as there certainly is not any situation to which the poor are exposed that calls so loudly for relief from those who have it in their power to afford it.

On October the 4th appeared the following advertisement of the Artisans :—

Birmingham, October 1, 1813.—We, the undersigned, the Committee of Artizans appointed to carry into effect the Resolutions of a Meeting held at the Shakespear Tavern, on Wednesday, the 17th of June, 1812, do most respectfully request the Artizans of Birmingham to meet on Wednesday next, at Ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the Shakespear Tavern, for the purpose of receiving the Report of our proceeding.

John Steer,	William Wight,	William Hartshorn,
Joseph Wood,	William Cox,	William Stevens,
James Boyce,	George Edmonds,	William Greenway,
John Lane,	Thomas Taylor,	Thomas Hooper,
Charles Kelk,	William Latham,	Joseph Holliman,
John Hinks,	William Bailey,	J. Berresford,
William Jennings,	Jabez Aston,	William Humpage,
Thomas Thorp,	Edward Crowder,	William Dent,
James Connard,	J. Faulkner,	John Sturges.
J. Bower,		

The Committee intend to dine together at the Shakespear Tavern after the Business of the Meeting is over. Such Friends as are disposed to honour them with their company may be supplied with tickets at the Bar of the Shakespear. Tickets at three shillings each. Dinner on the Table at Four o'clock.

The meeting was held, and the presentation made on October 6, and the whole proceedings passed off with great credit to all concerned. This is the brief report of the ceremony :—

October 4, 1813.—Wednesday, being the Anniversary of the birth of our late worthy and public-spirited High Bailiff, Thomas Attwood, Esq., was fixed upon by the Artizans of this town to present that true friend of British Commerce with a Silver Cup, of the value of 200 guineas, as a grateful testimony for the zeal and indefatigable exertions with which he originated, and, in a great measure, assisted in the destruction of the East India Monopoly, as well as his many other public services. The bells of both churches announced the ceremony with complimentary peals due to so interesting an occurrence.

The next quotation is the account of laying the foundation stone of the Proof House :—

October 4, 1813.—The principal gunmakers of this town, after very considerable pains and expence, having procured an Act of Parliament for the erecting and establishing of a Proof House, proceeded on Wednesday last to lay the first stone of the building, which is situated in Banbury Street, near the Fazeley canal, and will be of incalculable benefit to the town and the community, as the barrels of all guns manufactured at Birmingham must be full Tower proof, by which persons may use such fire arms with the greatest safety. The Guardians, Trustees, and Wardens attended, and deposited within a cavity, previously prepared in the stone, a series of gold and silver coins of his present Majesty, the Bank of England tokens, and the silver and copper tokens of this town, with a narrative of the events which led to the establishment written upon parchment, and enclosed in a glass bottle ; over the whole was laid a brass plate, engraved with a suitable inscription, containing the names of the Guardians, Trustees, and Wardens, &c. After the ceremony the parties retired to a dinner prepared for the occasion ; mirth and good humour presided, and the festive glass circulated freely to a late hour. At the time of laying the stone the bells of the churches struck up, and continued their merry peals occasionally throughout the day.

Again we have rejoicings over the defeat of Napoleon. The battle of Leipsic was a four days' fight, beginning on October 16th and ending on the 19th. It was one of the decisive battles of the world, and was won by the Allies. The scene at Birmingham on the arrival of the news must have been worth seeing :—

November 8, 1813.—The intelligence of the Glorious and Decisive Victories obtained by the Allies over Buonaparte, in the neighbourhood of Leipsic, was brought to this place as early as six o'clock in the morning of Thursday, by the Balloon Coach, to the Swan Hotel, and confirmed by the arrival of the Union at the Dog Inn at eight. The gratifying news was soon spread throughout the town by placards issued from the various printing

offices, and by the ringing of the bells of St. Martin's and St. Philip's, and St. John's, Deritend. The mail coach, in consequence of being detained to bring the Extraordinary Gazette, did not reach here till one o'clock, although our public-spirited coachmaster, Mr. John Hart, had despatched an extra pair of horses to Stonebridge to expedite its arrival. Long before twelve o'clock thousands and tens of thousands of the inhabitants had assembled in the streets through which the mail coach was to pass, and on its arrival (decorated with a profusion of laurels, flags, and ribbands, and the postilion of the extra pair of horses dressed in a complete suit of blue sarsnet) was greeted with the most enthusiastic shouts of joy. On the following evening a great part of the inhabitants manifested their joyful sensations by an illumination, in which many tasteful and appropriate transparencies and mottoes were exhibited. Many years have the manufacturers of this town and neighbourhood severely felt the weight of Buonaparte's pressure on the Continent; now we hope they will speedily be relieved from their sufferings; and we congratulate them and the public in the emphatical words of the Honourable Sir Charles Stewart: "Europe at length approaches her deliverance, and England may triumphantly look forward to reap, in conjunction with her Allies, that glory her unexampled and steady efforts in the common cause so justly entitle her to receive."

On January 3, 1814, we read:—

The Royal Assent was given on Monday se'nnight to an Act for enlarging the powers of an act for rebuilding the bridge over the river Rea, commonly called Deritend Bridge, near this Town, and for making other improvements adjoining that river.

In February of this year the town lost a very useful citizen, and the *Gazette* its editor. The death of our worthy predecessor is thus recorded:—

February 21, 1814.—Died, on Friday Evening, in his 48th year, from the sudden rupture of a blood vessel, preceded by an indisposition of a few weeks, which had greatly impaired his bodily frame, Mr. Jonathan Knott, for many years an eminent Bookseller and Printer of this town. His relatives and friends, by whom his private worth was properly appreciated, will long have reason to lament his removal. As Editor of this Gazette, his several duties were performed with impartiality, candour, and integrity, carefully excluding from its pages all matter which might injure the character, or even wound the feelings of individuals.

The Treaty of Paris was signed on the 30th of May; and the national rejoicings were of the most enthusiastic character. London was visited by the Emperor Alexander, the King of Prussia, Blucher, Platoff, Metternich, marshals and generals not a few; and was illuminated for three nights, while banquets and balls were given without number. The provinces imitated the capital; and Birmingham, like the others, donned holiday attire and kept high festival in celebration of the auspicious event. Here is the contemporary record of the scene:—

June 6, 1814.—The account of the signature of the long expected Treaty of Peace arrived on Friday. The first intimation reached us at the early hour of two in the morning, by express, from Mr. Willan, the coach proprietor, to Mr. Johnson, at the Nelson Hotel, by way of Oxford, in the short space of ten hours and a half. This laudable effort to furnish the town with the earliest tidings of the auspicious event was followed by a similar communication from Mr. Waterhouse to Mr. Hart, at the Swan Hotel, which arrived about four o'clock; at five the Ancient Briton Coach came in, drawn by six horses, bringing the same joyful intelligence. It may readily be imagined that news so important would not be slow in circulating; the populace rapidly collected, and with an anxious desire for its promulgation, took every means of awakening their neighbours, by drawing one of the coaches through the principal streets, and by knocking and ringing at the doors, &c. At an early hour, thousands of our fellow townsmen proceeded to meet the mail, which was expected to exhibit the characteristic decorations with which important political intelligence has of late been accompanied. Persons of both sexes, and of all classes, flocked to those parts of the town through which the mail usually passes. Upon its arrival soon after twelve o'clock, we calculated that not less than one half the population of Birmingham was collected. Never have we witnessed a more crowded, and at the same time, a more joyous scene. The mail coach, drawn by eight horses, profusely covered with flags, ribbands, laurel, &c., followed by the Balloon Coach and six, with similar decorations, passed in procession to the Swan Hotel, followed by the torrent of the populace. Every countenance testified the exultation this happy scene was so well calculated to excite; the windows were also filled with our fair townswomen, who welcomed the arrival with waving of handkerchiefs, &c. The mail was preceded about half an hour by the Union Coach, which was drawn to the Castle Inn by the people, amid the acclamations of all assembled. Several oxen and sheep will be roasted in different parts of the town to-day. Mr. Joseph Taylor, of Newhall Street, intends giving to his workmen and their wives an ox and six barrels of ale on the happy occasion.

These rejoicings were followed by an address of congratulation to the Prince Regent.

The watchman, Twyford, for shooting at whom Matsell was hanged on Snow Hill, in 1809, died this year; and we have the following further particulars respecting him :—

Nov. 28, 1814.—Died—On Tuesday, Mr. Robert Twyford, one of the Night Constables of this town. Our readers will recollect that Twyford was the watchman who was shot by Matsell some years since. The poor man became afflicted with strangulated hernia, and underwent the operation for that disease with the greatest firmness. Every circumstance induced the surgeons to expect a speedy recovery, except the agitation which a dreadful cough excited, and which in ten days carried him off. His widow, a poor woman of most respectable character, is left desolate; and in appealing to the public in her favour, we are certain we shall not plead in vain, particularly when the circumstances of her husband's conduct are recollected, and that the disease of the lungs which destroyed him was caught while in the faithful discharge of his duty. What adds to the poor woman's misfortune is, that a club which Twyford belonged to, refused to pay the usual sum on such occasions, no account of the man having died after an operation for strangulated hernia, although

the body was opened on that account to investigate the cause of his death, and the parts connected with the operation were found in a natural state, but the lungs were in the highest state of inflammation.—Donations will be received by the Printer of this paper.

The agitation against the Corn Laws was now beginning; and it will be seen by the following quotation that the people of Birmingham early took up the subject, and with their usual earnestness :—

CORN LAWS.

March 13, 1815.—The Town's Meeting which was held at the Madras School, on Wednesday last, to petition the Legislature on the subject of the Corn Laws, was most numerously attended. Several of the Clergy and Magistrates and a considerable number of the most respectable inhabitants of the town were present. After a few introductory remarks from Joseph Purden, Esq., the chairman, the assembly was addressed by W. Villers, Esq., Mr. P. M. James, W. Hamper, Esq., Mr. J. Turner, &c., &c. The resolutions were unanimously carried, and a petition against the Corn Bill agreed to. Many persons, unable to obtain admission, were obliged to remain on the outside of the School Room, in which it is calculated near 3000 individuals were assembled. Immediately upon the breaking up of the meeting skins of parchment were handed round for signatures. We understand that 48,600 names were obtained by four o'clock the following afternoon, when the petitions were forwarded to London. That to the Commons was presented on Friday evening.

The Petition addressed to the House of Commons by the Chamber of Manufacturers in this town was presented on Friday evening.

The old post office was in Bennett's Hill, and was most inconvenient for the public. The growth of the town, and the new postal facilities, had made it inadequate for the wants of the town. Accordingly, we are not surprised to find both the authorities and the public anxious for a change. On June 5, an answer to a complaining correspondent gave the public the following information :—

We would inform "a Townsman" that his suggestion, relative to the inconvenience attending the transaction of business at the Post Office in this town, owing to the confined space appropriated to the public, has been fully anticipated. Upon enquiry we find that steps have been already taken, by some individuals, and a plan, somewhat differing from that proposed by him, is very nearly matured, which we hope to see speedily ratified by a town's meeting, when our correspondent, and other public spirited inhabitants of the town, will have an opportunity of contributing towards the accomplishment of so desirable an alteration.

"We rejoice" to make the next extract. It is the beginning of that social legislation which, in our own day, has culminated in the Factory Acts, and the Regulation of Labour Bill. Such notes are to social questions like a "beam in darkness;" they may reveal the surrounding

gloom, but they also show the way out of it. The new life they give rolls "from soul to soul," and happily "grows for ever and for ever." On June 12, the editor says "we rejoice," and even now we rejoice with him, "to hear that a Bill is to be brought into Parliament to fix the age under which children shall not be admitted into manufactories; to limit the hours in the day beyond which they shall not be worked; and to secure some portion of useful instruction to those little beings."

Our present Coroner, Dr. Birt Davies, wrote a series of very able letters in the *Gazette*, advocating the establishment of a House of Recovery in cases of fever. In the paper in which the first letter appeared, signed Medicus, the editor thus drew attention to it :—

December 11, 1815.—We would direct the attention of our readers to a letter, inserted in our first page, on the efficacy and advantages of establishments exclusively devoted to the reception of poor persons labouring under contagious disorders. The writer strongly sets forth the beneficial effects produced by institutions of the kind in several parts of the kingdom, and strongly urges the necessity of a similar establishment in this town. We have no doubt the subject will meet with that serious attention invariably given by our townsmen to any plan affecting the comfort of the poorer classes.

We have had the pleasant task of recording from year to year the innumerable charitable undertakings of the prosperous inhabitants of Birmingham. In every manner in which philanthropy could employ itself to diminish the suffering and to relieve the distress of the poor, was the benevolence of our fathers employed. They have left to us a legacy of good works, which we have not been neglectful to maintain nor unwilling to increase. For the most part, however, until the time we have now reached, the efforts of the charitable were rather employed in relieving the poor, than assisting the poor to help themselves. Sick Clubs and Gifts, and other institutions of a like kind were established by working men; but generally these were based upon wrong principles, and were more fruitful of evil than of good; often creating, and nearly always fostering, habits of drunkenness instead of providence and forethought, and were more profitable to the landlords of the public-houses in which they were invariably held, than to any of the members, except the lazy and the drunken, who were always on the "box," living on the money of the soberer and, therefore, healthier of their fellow members. In 1816, however, a new institution was introduced, in which the working man could place his savings and receive interest for his deposits.

The time was come to teach the poor how to help themselves, and to make provision for the future. The year 1816 opened with the following announcement :—

SAVINGS BANKS.

January 8th, 1816.—We have great satisfaction in announcing to our readers, that these admirable institutions have attracted the serious attention of several of our most respectable townsmen, and that the expediency of forming an establishment of the kind in Birmingham, will be taken into immediate consideration.

Only a month after this brief announcement the Bank was organised, a committee appointed, and the whole machinery set in action. And we learn "that on Monday last, at the first opening of the Bank for Savings in this town, the sum of £26 was deposited."

On March 24, "about one o'clock p.m., the shock of an earthquake, which lasted twenty seconds, was sensibly experienced in this town and neighbourhood."

It is pleasant to record the following grateful recognition of public services :—

MR. BROUGHAM.

April 22nd, 1816.—On the 7th of July, 1812, a respectable Meeting of the Merchants, Manufacturers, and other Inhabitants of this town was held at the Public Office, to express their grateful thanks to the Members of both Houses of Parliament for their great and successful exertions in obtaining a revocation of the Orders in Council; when the thanks of the meeting were unanimously voted to Henry Brougham, Esq., "for the pre-eminent ability, zeal, and perseverance manifested in his unparalleled exertions to obtain the revocation of the Orders in Council, and for his eloquent appeal to the House of Commons on the 16th of June last, in behalf of the manufacturing and commercial interests of the United Kingdom." As a further proof of the gratitude of the persons composing this meeting, a Subscription was immediately entered into to defray expences for purchasing certain articles of plate to be presented to him, as a token of their high esteem. These articles, having been finished, were submitted on Tuesday and Wednesday to public inspection, in a room in the Public Office, in this town, previously to their being forwarded to London. They were manufactured at the Soho, of the finest workmanship, and are as follows: Two richly embossed Tureens, bearing this inscription, "To Henry Brougham, Esq., the enlightened Advocate of the manufacturing and commercial Interests of his Country, this Memorial of Gratitude was unanimously voted at a public Meeting of the Inhabitants of Birmingham, 7th July, 1812;" a richly chased foliaged Epergne; a pair of beautiful Tripods, each carrying three lights, serpents in the centre, and supported by Satyr's heads and feet.

The Board of Ordnance were at this time considering the desirability of removing the manufacture of arms from this town. Such a proposal was sure to rouse Birmingham manufacturers and workmen to the

utmost activity of opposition. The proposal of the Government, and the claims of this district are set forth in the next extract :—

April 29th, 1816.—At a time like the present, when the resources of many of our industrious manufacturers have been reduced by the great changes that have occurred in those branches of trade which were principally dependent upon a state of warfare, it must be a matter of serious regret to our townsmen to learn that preparations have, for some time past, been making by the Board of Ordnance for removing the manufacture of arms from this district to new establishments in the vicinity of the metropolis, to be conducted altogether by their own Servants. We are at a loss to assign any adequate motive for removing the remains of that manufacture from this town, which, by furnishing to the Government upwards of one thousand muskets per day during many years of the late French war, has proved its ability at any time to supply the exigencies of the State to the greatest possible extent. When we consider the peculiar and natural advantages of this district for the cheap supply of materials requisite for that manufacture, and the evident superiority in point of economy of private factories over those which are placed under the management of a Government, we are induced to express our hope that the attention of the public will be directed to this important subject, and that they will see the propriety of seriously remonstrating against a measure so materially affecting the interests of this town and neighbourhood, in no degree called for on the ground of expediency, and which cannot fail to be wastefully expensive in its operation.

On May 6 this editorial notice appeared :—

We rejoice to find, by a very numerous and highly respectable requisition which appears in our paper of this day, that our townsmen are properly roused to a sense of the injury which the projected removal of the manufacture of small arms to the royal establishment in the vicinity of the metropolis, would occasion to the town and neighbourhood. A town's meeting upon the subject is fixed by our High Bailiff for Tuesday, the 21st instant. We trust the representation of that assembly will not only convince his Majesty's Government of the injustice of the measure, and of the incalculable injury which must necessarily result to this district, by so considerable a portion of its population being thrown out of employment, but also of the impolicy of the proceeding considered in an economical and, of consequence, a national point of view.

The meeting was held on May 12th, instead of the 21st, as mentioned above. Theodore Price, Richard Spooner, Timothy Smith, Tertius Galton, and other eminent merchants and manufacturers took part in the proceedings. Mr. Dickenson one of the speakers, mentioned a curious circumstance which is worth quoting. He said, "seeing so many gentlemen who had attained large fortunes from the gun trade, he proposed that a subscription should be entered into to defray the expenses for carrying the object of the meeting into effect, instead of being taken from the Poor's Rates, as he thought that the manufacturers and shopkeepers of this town were sufficiently burthened by the ordinary

expenses of parochial assessment; *there being only about a fourth part who pay rates out of 17,000 houses which the town contained.*"

A Town's Meeting was held on May 14, and resolutions expressive of the utmost alarm and regret, and the most determined opposition to the proposed measure were unanimously passed.

Factory legislation has now assumed a most important position in social politics. Nearly the whole of the nation recognise the principle that the duty of the legislature is to provide laws for the protection of those who are unable to protect themselves. If parents neglect their duty and allow their children to grow up in wickedness, or make of them juvenile slaves for their own selfish purposes, the State must come in and throw its ægis of protection over her future citizens. If masters, seized with the spirit of greed, would work the little striplings to the prevention of their development into healthy and strong men and women, the State must come in and compel the dictates of humanity to be acted upon, even by men who are ignorant of their meaning. The history of this movement is an instructive chapter in the progress of the nation. When the "Factory Act" of 1816 was introduced, it was opposed by employers and employed alike. At the present time employers and employed are united in assisting the legislature to pass such acts, and using their utmost exertions to make them as perfect as possible. In 1801, an act was passed, in spite of great opposition from the mill-owners, "for the regulation of apprentices in cotton mills and factories." In 1816, it was proposed to extend the provisions of this act; and the Birmingham Chamber of Manufactures and Commerce entered this protest against such extension :—

May 6, 1816.—At a meeting of the CHAMBER of MANUFACTURERS and COMMERCE in this town, held on Monday last, the subjoined petition was ordered to be presented to the House of Commons against the proposed extension of the Act "for the regulation of apprentices in cotton mills and factories" to all manufactories employing twenty or more persons under the age of eighteen.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The petition of the undersigned Directors of the Chamber of Manufacturers and Commerce, at Birmingham,

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

That your petitioners have felt considerable alarm and uneasiness in consequence of a bill having been introduced into your Honourable House for extending to all manufactories

whatever, containing twenty or more persons under the age of eighteen years, the provisions of an act made in the 42nd year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled "an act for the preservation of the health and morals of apprentices, and others employed in cotton and other mills, and cotton and other factories," together with certain alterations and amendments thereto, against which yours petitioners are anxious to submit to the consideration of your Honourable House the following objections :—

1st. That your petitioners are not aware that any of the abuses which the bill contemplates are to be found in the numerous manufactories of this town and neighbourhood. That, in case such abuse should at any time occur, the existing laws give ample power to magistrates or parochial authorities to correct or remove them.

2ndly. That the manufactories of Birmingham afford various employments for children under ten years of age, which do not require any bodily exertion detrimental to health, but which greatly contribute to form early habits of attention and general industry.

3rdly. That the clause which prohibits altogether the employment of children under the age of ten years would have the effect of depriving most of the industrious mechanics of this town and neighbourhood of those resources in the earnings of their children which have contributed to the decent maintenance and education of their growing families, who, in a great number of instances, have been employed under their own immediate notice and superintendence at an earlier age than ten years.

4thly. That the clause limiting the hours of employment of all persons under eighteen years of age would be most inconveniently felt in many of the large manufactories of this district in which the hours of attendance are necessarily dependent upon certain processes of the manufacture, which, in many cases, it is impossible to control in regard to the present hours.

5thly. That the opportunities for education which have been so amply provided for in almost every manufacturing town, and particularly in that in which your petitioners reside, are much more efficient than could be expected from the proposed compulsory regulations.

6thly. That the proposed appointment of visitors is altogether uncalled for by the state of the manufactories in this town and neighbourhood, and would be liable to great abuse from the vexatious interference manufacturers would experience, and the exposures to which their operations would be subject.

7thly. That the powers proposed to be vested in the visitors, by substituting legislative authority for that of parents and masters, must tend to weaken and destroy that salutary control which is requisite for promoting habits of regularity and industry, and for maintaining that proper degree of subordination upon which the well-being of society materially depends.

8thly. That medical gentlemen can well attest that no facts exist to prove the necessity of legislative regulations for the prevention of infectious diseases in the manufactories of this town and its vicinity.

That, should your Honourable House have reason to believe that such abuses as have been contemplated do exist in certain branches of manufacture in this United Kingdom as to require legislative interference, your petitioners humbly pray that such interference

may be confined to those manufactures; the general provisions of the present bill appearing to your petitioners, in their application to their immediate neighbourhood, to be erroneous in principle—vexatious and embarrassing to the manufacturer—inquisitorial in their nature—oppressive to the labouring class—and in their tendency injuriously affecting the public interests. And your petitioners will ever pray.

England's especial favourite, the Princess Charlotte of Wales, was married on the 2nd of May this year, to Prince Leopold of Saxe Cobourg, amid the great rejoicings of the nation. Birmingham joined in these demonstrations of affection, and sent a loyal congratulatory address to the "loving father," and the well-beloved and amiable Princess.

The distress this year was very great throughout the country, and led to the usual tumults. Birmingham was the scene of a curious episode, of which our respected townsman, Mr. R. Jabet, was the unwilling and innocent hero :—

November 4, 1816.—We are sorry it becomes our duty to state that a spirit of insubordination manifested itself in this town during the early part of last week. An address, originally circulated among the workmen in the neighbourhood of Bolton, was on the preceding Saturday printed by Mr. Jabet, in the form of a hand-bill, and generally distributed, as we understand, with a view to counteract the effects of some publications which had been disseminated among the lower classes, and which were considered as tending, under the present want of employment, to irritate the minds of the working part of the community. This address was read with avidity, and copies being placed in the windows of the Commercial Herald Office, on the Monday, attracted towards evening, a number of idle people, among whom an unfounded and malicious report, prejudical to Mr. Jabet, was spread by some evil disposed and designing persons, by which the indignation of the crowd was strongly excited against him, and at length vented itself in an attack upon his house by which the windows of the shop and front of the dwelling were completely demolished before any interference of the police could take place to prevent it. We are glad to observe that no part of Mr. Jabet's family personally suffered in this unjustifiable and unexpected attack upon his premises.

The multitude, which had by this time greatly increased, immediately proceeded to destroy the windows of a house on the opposite side of the street. They were however interrupted by the speedy arrival of W. Hamper, Esq., one of our Magistrates, supported by a strong *posse* of constables, and by detachments of the 15th Hussars, and 73rd regiment, headed by Major Thackwell and Col. Crawford; the riot act having been read, the crowd was driven up the High Street by the military, who, in the course of an hour or two succeeded in entirely dispersing the populace and restoring quiet, which continued through the night. The windows of several of the houses were broken in the progress of the mob up the High-street. On the following morning a numerous assemblage took place in the Bull-ring, but upon the appearance of W. Bedford, Esq., and the other Magistrates, by whom the riot act was again read, supported by a numerous body of special constables,

and of the military, they gradually dispersed, and the town has since continued in a perfectly tranquil state.

To the Magistrates, for their prompt and efficient exertions, the thanks of the town are most justly due; and likewise to the military for the humanity and forbearance which distinguished their conduct.

The proprietor of the Spring Gardens, appeared in this matter as follows :—

November 4, 1816.—Whereas I, William Lowe, of Spring Gardens, Birmingham, Victualler, did incautiously report that I *had read* in Mr. Jabet's Window, a Paper purporting that it was Mr. Jabet's Opinion, "*Nine Shillings per Week were sufficient for the Support of a Man, his Wife, and Six Children*," and for which Words Mr. Jabet has threatened an action against me; but in Consideration of my thus publicly acknowledging that such Paper *was not in* Mr. Jabet's Window, he has kindly consented to withdraw all legal Proceedings. Witness my hand, the 31st day of October, 1816.

WILLIAM LOWE.

The following notice was issued by some of the Magistrates :—

November 4, 1816.—We, the Magistrates acting for the town and neighbourhood of Birmingham, were much concerned to find that, on Monday Evening, some of the inhabitants, misled by seditious and ill-disposed Persons, and especially by some recent Publications mischievously circulated, showed an Inclination to Riot and Disturbance, and proceeded to Acts of Violence on the Shop and House of Mr. Jabet, a very loyal and respectable Printer, who, with the most laudable Views, had published a Letter written by a Gentleman in Lancashire, the sole Tendency of which was to preserve Peace and Order in the Kingdom. We indeed had hoped that we should have to boast of the peaceable and orderly Conduct of all the Inhabitants of this Town; and having by prompt Exertions quelled the Disturbances, still flatter ourselves that we shall not have again to lament similar Outrages. We are however determined on all Occasions to put the Law strictly in force against every Disturber of the Public Peace, and intend to have a large body of Special Constables (composed of the principal Inhabitants, who have declared their Readiness to act), always at Hand to assist us; neither will we neglect the Aid of the Military, who, under the Control of the Civil Power, are strictly legal Preservers of the Peace.

W. HICKS. B. SPENCER.
W. VILLERS. THEO. PRICE.
W. BEDFORD. W. WITHERING.
W. HAMPER.

The remainder of the year 1816, was almost entirely devoted to charitable work; relieving the distress of the poor, and providing employment for those out of work,

Although gas had been employed at the Soho in 1802, it was not until 1817 that a company was formed to apply it to the lighting of the town :—

Intended Birmingham Gas Light Company.

January 6, 1817.—Proposals for raising, by Subscription, a capital of 100,000*l.* for erecting and maintaining Gas Light Works and Apparatus, for lighting up the public Streets of the Town, and the Houses, Shops, and Manufactories of such Persons as may be desirous of the same, by a Company of Proprietors, to be called the "Birmingham Gas Light Company."

I. That the Capital of this Company be 100,000*l.*, in 10,000 Shares of 10*l.* each, and the Shares to be transferable.

II. That each Person shall, at the Time of his becoming a Subscriber, pay down a Deposit of 10*l.* per Cent. towards the necessary Expenses of Surveys, Plans, Parliamentary and other incidental Charges, to be incurred in procuring the Establishment of the Company's Works; and in case 20,000*l.* is not subscribed for in three Months, that the Deposit be returned, after deducting the Expenses incurred.

III. That no Person be admitted a Subscriber who is not an Inhabitant, or otherwise concerned in Trade in the Town of Birmingham, till after the 1st Day of March next; after which Time the Subscription to become open to the Public.

IV. That no Person shall be allowed to subscribe for more than 40 Shares until the said 1st Day of March next.

V. That when 2,000 Shares shall be subscribed for, a General Meeting shall be held, pursuant to public Notice, to be given in the Birmingham Papers, for the Purpose of Electing a Committee of not less than 15 Persons; and such Committee to be invested with full Powers to manage the Concerns of the Company till an Act of Parliament is obtained (if necessary), with Power to add to their Number if they shall think fit, so as not to exceed 24; and no Person to be eligible to serve on the Committee who is not the Holder of 10 Shares, and that six do form a Quorum.

VI. That no Call be made of more than 10*l.* per Cent. on each Share, and that not oftener than every three Months.

VII. That at every General or Special Meeting the Votes shall be taken by Shares, and not by Voices; and any absent Member to be at Liberty to Vote by Proxy, each Proxy being a Subscriber, and appointed in writing.

Lists of the Subscribers to the intended Birmingham Gas Light Company are left at the several Banks in the Town, and at our Offices, where such Persons as are desirous of becoming Subscribers are requested to leave their Names and pay their Deposits.

Smith and Arnold,
Richard Bird, } Solicitors.

This year Mr. Kempson, Surveyor to the Overseers, gave a report at the Sessions, showing the number of houses and the amount paid in rates.

The total number of houses in Birmingham Parish	18,082
Of these contribute towards the Maintenance of the Poor	3,893
Houses that pay no Poor's Rates . . .	14,189
The annual value of the whole Parish is . .	£210,170
The annual value of Premises paying Poor's Rates is	114,665
Ditto ditto that pay no Poor's Rates . .	95,505

Of the 3,893 houses that contribute towards the Poor's Rates, many pay only one rate in two, others one in three, and recently many of the occupiers, when summoned, have, from their poverty, been excused altogether; so that the number of houses regularly contributing is far below the number above stated.

The number of houses above the value of 20*l.* per annum is only	2,236
Ditto under 20*l.* per annum	15,846
Ditto under 12*l.* per annum	13,871
Ditto under 10*l.* per annum	13,072
Ditto under 7*l.* per annum	9,218

It may be observed that the rents of those houses which do not pay Poor's Rates are higher in proportion on that account, so that what should go towards the maintenance of the poor is shared by the landlords of small houses, without benefit to the poor tenants. In other populous towns the landlords have been compelled to contribute, in some proportion, towards the Poor's Rates for their small houses. At a time when the pressure of these Rates is so great upon a small number of the inhabitants, a similar arrangement is surely needful in this town.

On January 27 we read :—

GAS LIGHTS.

An arrangement between the Commissioners of the Street Act and a gentleman of London, for lighting the town with gas, is nearly completed. The contract, we understand, provides that our streets shall be lighted from sunset to sunrise, commencing in August and continuing until May.

The amount raised for the relief of the poor this winter was nearly £4,000; and 27,000 quarts of soup, and as many slices of bread were distributed weekly.

The payment of rates was exciting as much attention at this time, and causing as fierce discussions as have been produced by the New Reform Bill of 1867. As the origin and the system of compounding are not so well known as they ought to be, and as the subject itself is of considerable importance to our local history, and interesting in itself, we reproduce the documents relating to this subject. In 1817 a bill was to be introduced into Parliament for the purpose of rating the landlords instead of the tenants of houses under £12 a year rent. The landlords of that day opposed the passing of this bill as heartily as in our own they have opposed the annihilation of the compound householder. A good deal of valuable information on the condition of the town is contained in this statement :—

Public Office, Birmingham.—February 10th, 1817.—At a very numerous and respectable Meeting of Landlords and Owners of Houses, in Birmingham, convened by public Advertisement, for the Purpose of taking into Consideration the Bill intended to be

brought into the present Session of Parliament, for rating the Proprietors instead of the Occupiers of Houses, in Birmingham, under 12*l.* a Year Rent;

William Price, Esq., in the Chair;

Resolved,—That it appears to this Meeting to be both an unwarrantable and unprecedented Proceeding on the part of the Promoters of such intended Bill, that a Subject of so much and serious importance to the Town in general, and to the Proprietors of such Houses in particular, should have been brought before Parliament without any public Notice having been given of their Intention so to do.

That the taxing of the Landlords and Owners of Houses instead of the Occupiers is a Departure from the Principle of the 43rd of Elizabeth, chap. ii, which first established the Rate for the Relief of the Poor, and which has been acted upon to the present Time, with some few local Exceptions; and should the present Bill be carried into a Law, it will be extremely oppressive and partial on the Proprietors of Houses whose Rents are under 12*l.* per Annum, a great Number of whom are dependent upon the Income arising from such Rents for the Support and Maintenance of themselves and numerous Families.

That in the few local Acts of Parliament which have been obtained for other Parishes for altering the Collection of the Poor's Rate, Provisions have been contained, authorising the compounding with any such Landlords or Owners so rated for a Rate at a diminution, a Provision very liable to Abuse, and a Collusion likely to be oppressive to the Occupiers of such Houses, as it must be obvious that no Landlord or Owner would be likely to compound unless with the reasonable Prospect, and always with the Intention, of exacting from the Occupier, in the shape of increased Rent, equal, if not more than would be the fair Compensation or simple Reimbursement of what he is to pay towards the Poor's Rate, and by which the Payment of the Rates will ultimately fall on the labouring Classes of the People, who in these Times can with Difficulty maintain themselves and numerous Families; and any System of Taxation which may fall upon the lower Orders of Persons to Pay ought not to be pressed against them.

That Houses in the Parish of Birmingham under 12*l.* a Year's Rent are mostly let to weekly Tenants, that a great Number of such Houses are frequently unoccupied, and that there is a very great Difficulty in obtaining the Payment of the Rents; and it often happens the Tenants get into Arrears for Rent and leave the Premises without paying the Landlords, whereby they sustain very great and serious Losses, and if the Landlords were to distrain for the Recovery of their Rents the Parties must fall on the Parish for Relief.

That it is a notorious fact, and well known to the promoters of the intended Bill, that the Persons occupying houses within the Parish of Birmingham whose rents are under £12 a year are in reduced circumstances, with large families, and more in need of Parish Relief than in the ability to contribute to the payment of the rates; that according to Mr. Kempson's statement there are near 14,000 houses in Birmingham whose rents do not amount to £12 per annum, and at the calculation of four persons to each House the number amounts to 56,000, a great many of whom are at this time out of Employment, and maintained at the Expence of the Parish and other voluntary Contributions of the Inhabitants.

That should the intended Bill pass into a Law, Houses in Birmingham, under £12 per Annual Rent, will be reduced in value not less than 25 per Cent., and presuming the average Value of each House at £70, which would amount to the Sum of £980,000, a

Sum of not less than £245,000 would be taken from the Properties of the Proprietors and Owners of such Houses.

That by the present Laws the Parish Officers have full and adequate Powers to assess and collect the Rates from the Tenants of those Houses which, by the intended Bill, they want to impose upon the Landlords and Owners of one description of Property only.

That, for the foregoing and a variety of other Reasons which might be stated, it is the Opinion of this Meeting the said intended Bill ought to be opposed, and that immediate and proper Steps be taken to oppose its further progress in Parliament.

That a Petition be forthwith prepared for the Signatures of the Persons interested in opposing the intended Bill being passed, and forwarded by the Chairman to D. S. Dugdale, Esq., and Sir Charles Mordaunt, Bart., the Members for the County, together with a copy of these Resolutions, with a Request to those Gentlemen to present the same to the House of Commons, and to use their Exertions against the intended Bill being passed into Law.

WILLIAM PRICE, Chairman.

The same paper contains the following editorial paragraph :—

TO LANDLORDS AND PAYERS OF POOR RATES IN BIRMINGHAM.

Feb. 24, 1817.—The Resolutions which have been passed at a Meeting of Landlords and Owners of Houses in Birmingham, on the Subject of the Bill in Parliament to authorise the rating of the Landlords instead of the Tenants of small Houses, require a few Observations in order to set the Question in an impartial Point of View. These Resolutions seemed to have been framed without sufficient Information as to the Scope and Extent of the intended Bill, and to have been adopted from Feelings tremblingly alive to individual Interests.

Private enterprise, as well as public spirit, was busy in useful undertakings which proved for the benefit of the town. Here is the brief record of one of these :—

March 3, 1817.—It gives us great Pleasure to be able to inform the trading World, that Thomas Gibson has completed his Canal at Baskerville Place. This is certainly one of the greatest Works any single Individual in this part of the Country has undertaken for many years; and we wish him that success he so justly merits. The line of Wharfs intended to be erected on this Canal, ought to be called by his own Name, "Gibson's Wharfs." They will be well situated for the Convenience of Trade, being nearly in the Centre of England; and according to a Level taken by an ingenious Engineer, to determine the Height of this Canal, found to be 3,000 Feet above the Level of the Thames at London, and 12 Feet higher than any other Canal in England.

The first Boats laden will be raised from the lower to the higher Level this Morning at Eleven o'clock.

The following paragraph is a sad testimony to the fearful distress of this unhappy time :—

May 12, 1817.—In consequence of the depressed state of the manufacturing classes in this town, we learn that many families have been compelled to vacate the small tenements in which they have hitherto lived with comparative comfort, and are now crowded together

in small houses ; numbers of which, from being erected in close situations, are in a great measure deprived of a free circulation of air. This circumstance, unless counteracted by the utmost attention to cleanliness, must, as the summer approaches, render them offensive and unwholesome, and expose the inmates to disorders perhaps of an infectious kind. Frequent ventilation and occasional white-washing would, if attended to, prove powerful auxiliaries to the preservation of health in such situations ; and we would remind Landlords of tenements so occupied, of the great benefit they would confer upon their tenants by occasionally inspecting the state of their property, and directing them to be white-washed as often as may be deemed necessary. In many cases the expense of the lime would fall upon the Landlords, as the tenants would no doubt cheerfully devote their time and labour to wash the walls and ceilings of the houses they inhabit.

The Birmingham Poor Rate Bill was not passed. On May 19, we read : " The motion for the second reading of this Bill produced in the House of Commons, on Monday night, a discussion of some length, which ended in the following division :—Ayes 103 ; Noes 36, Majority 67. The Bill was consequently lost. The application appears to have failed in consequence of the determined hostility of the landlords, and the landed interest in the House, to the principle of the Bill." In this Session a bill was introduced for the purpose of putting a stop to the circulation of local copper tokens.

This year witnessed the establishment of an Orthopædic Hospital. On August 4, appeared this report of the meeting ; at which it was resolved to add one more to our many charitable institutions :—

At a Meeting held at Birmingham the 24th day of June, 1817, for the Purpose of considering the Propriety of establishing an Institution for the relief of Persons labouring under Bodily Deformity ;

The Earl of Dartmouth in the Chair ;

This Meeting, taking into Consideration the great Difficulty of obtaining Advice and Relief in Cases of Bodily Deformity, and being of Opinion that it would be desirable to promote an Institution for the Purpose of relieving those who labour under such Deformity, either natural or accidental, and who have not the Means of Procuring Advice and Instruments properly adapted to their unfortunate Situation ; and taking into Consideration also, the prevalence of Herniary Complaints : Do now Resolve to establish a Society for such charitable Purposes, to be called " *The General Institution for the Relief of Persons labouring under Bodily Deformity.*"

That the Right Hon. the Earl of Dartmouth be the Patron of this Institution.

That Mr. Freer be appointed Surgeon to the Establishment.

That Mr. John Welchman Whately be appointed Secretary.

That the following Gentlemen be appointed a Committee for the present year, with power to add to their number, and that three be competent to act, viz. :—

The Earl of Dartmouth.

Heneage Legge, Esq.	Francis Lawley, Esq.
F. B. Hacket, Esq.	Isaac Spooner, Esq.
Charles Lloyd, Esq.	Tertius Galton, Esq.
Rev. E. A. Bagot, Esq.	Rev. T. L. Freer.
A. S. Lillington, Esq.	John Rotton, Esq.
Rev. J. H. Spry.	Rev. J. Kentish.
R. Spooner, Esq.	Theodore Price, Esq.
Dr. John Johnstone.	James Taylor, Esq.
Dr. De Lys.	James Lloyd, Esq.
Timothy Smith, Esq.	Dr. Booth.
David Lloyd, Esq.	Mr. Thomas Potts.
Mr. J. Pearson.	Mr. P. M. James.

Mr. J. Scholefield.

The same day the editor thus refers to the subject :—

When we have considered the great advantages derived from public hospitals and dispensaries, it has often excited our surprise that no institution has hitherto been established for the special relief of those suffering under infirmities produced by various distortions of the limbs and by herniary complaints. It is perhaps not generally known how very frequently instances of this kind are met with in manufacturing districts, where the nature of the employments in which the poor are engaged renders them peculiarly liable to diseases, and accidents which produce deformity, very often, in the prime of life, depriving them of the ability of earning a subsistence. In such cases it is obvious that immediate and proper application is frequently the means of preventing the most distressing consequences, and that even where a radical cure cannot be effected that relief may be afforded which will enable the sufferer to pursue his ordinary occupation with comparative ease and comfort. It should be recollected that numbers of children are born with deformities, most of which may be removed by an early attention to instrumental assistance. It will be perceived, by the resolutions inserted in this page, that a conviction of its great utility has at length induced the formation of a society for the particular relief of persons so afflicted. The central situation of Birmingham, and the facility with which the skill and judgment of its surgeons can be seconded by ingenious artists in the construction of proper instruments, render it particularly eligible for such an establishment; and bearing in mind the great portion of human misery that may be obviated by such an institution, it cannot fail to recommend itself to the attention, and claim the support of the opulent, the benevolent, and the humane.

The new hospital was situated in New Street, and was immediately productive of good. Only a month after its foundation we have the following report of its success :—

Society for the Relief of Bodily Deformities.

September 8, 1817.—In calling the attention of our readers to the advertisement of this Institution, it gives us sincere pleasure to announce that the society, although so recently established, has already been the means of alleviating the sufferings of many real objects of charity. Twenty-five patients, we understand, have been received, and the applications

for admission continue to be *very numerous*. So deeply impressed are the Committee and other friends of the institution of the necessity of the aid which it is calculated to afford, and so convinced that its utility will only be bounded by its means, that they have determined to make personal application in the town and neighbourhood for additional subscriptions. Of the success of their endeavours we cannot doubt, and we feel a firm conviction that an institution so benevolent in its views, and likely to become so extensively beneficial, has only to be more generally known to insure it a support commensurate with its importance.

During the first year of its establishment 235 patients were relieved. From the last report we learn that 634 out-patients were treated; and 14 in-patients; and 1874 were in attendance from June, 1865, to June, 1866. Of these 486 have been cured, 120 greatly relieved, and 42 under treatment; 244 operations were performed, 294 sets of instruments used in their management; and amongst these 189 cases were from the surrounding districts. The cost of instruments and medicine being a little over £235.

In this year the time of our Michælmas Fair was fixed :—

BIRMINGHAM FAIR.

Sept. 22, 1817.—Notice is hereby given, that Birmingham Fair will be held on Thursday next, the 25th Instant, being the last Thursday in September; and in future will always be held in the last Week of that Month.

JOHN TURNER, High Bailiff.

On November 6, England lost a Princess over whose early death more earnest and eloquent tears have been deservedly shed, and more deep and genuine sorrow felt, than perhaps ever yet followed a royal decease. At the youthful age of 22, the pride and hope of the nation, the beloved Princess Charlotte of Wales died; and the whole people at once went into universal mourning. Every town sent addresses of condolence to the unworthy father, and for a short time even George IV. was honoured with a love "not his due." We had our meeting and sent up our address; and the scene must have been very affecting :—

Nov. 24, 1817.—On Friday, pursuant to advertisement, a meeting of the inhabitants of the town was held for the purpose of voting an address of condolence to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent. It is scarcely needful to mention that the proceedings were unanimously conducted. The Rev. Dr. Outram moved the address, and was seconded by the Rev. Mr. Kentish; the Rev. Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Price also addressed the assembly. The Rev. Mr. Burn proposed an address to the Prince of Saxe Coburg, which met with the most prompt concurrence of the meeting. The delicate and truly sympathetic manner in which the latter address, in particular, is crouched could not fail to recommend it to the

immediate approval of all, as we are clear our readers will concur with us in pronouncing, when in regular course we shall submit it to their perusal. We cannot but remark, however, and expect it was obvious to all present, that never was business passed through in a more quiet and suitable manner. It is somewhere remarked by Addison that "Silence is sometimes more significant and sublime than the most elevated and expressive eloquence," and we think that the sentiment was most strikingly illustrated on this occasion. Exuberance of feeling operated rather to prevent than to promote the eloquence which would have otherwise been called into exercise. Much could not be said where feeling was so strong, and that feeling known to exist reciprocally in all.

A question of considerable importance to the trade and manufactures of the town was discussed at this time in several letters. In January, 1818, a meeting was held of those interested, and the following report explains the grievance and gives the remedy proposed :—

Public Office, January 13, 1818.—At a very numerous and respectable Meeting of Manufacturers, convened by public advertisement, to take into consideration the best mode of rescuing the Trade of this Town from the present degraded state into which many of its Branches are reduced, from the unprecedented means adopted by some Merchants in the Execution of their Orders, who purchase Articles in an unfinished state, and employ Journeymen to complete the same in a very inferior manner, not only at very reduced but oppressive Prices.

Mr. William Blakeway being called to the chair, the following resolutions were carried unanimously :—

1. Resolved,—That this system is calculated not only to injure the regular manufacturer, but to render the earnings of the labouring Mechanic insufficient for his necessary support; to increase the present alarming extent of Pauperism, as also eventually to deceive the consumer by imposing upon him Goods of deteriorated qualities.

2. Resolved,—That it is the Opinion of this Meeting that the most effectual way to remedy the evil complained of would be for respectable Manufacturers to withhold their Patterns and confidence from those Houses who shall pursue a system so fallacious in Principle, so injurious in Practice, and so destructive of the Repute of British Manufactures.

3. Resolved,—That the following Gentlemen be a Committee to carry into effect the objects of this Meeting, with Powers to add to their number :—

James Woolley, Esq.	Thomas Pemberton,	William Aston,
William Blakeway,	William Bannister,	Thomas Clarke,
John Turner,	William Lawley,	Thomas Messenger,
T. Green Simcox,	James Alston,	William Field,
John Ryland,	William Sargant,	Thomas Ryland,
Matthew Dixon,	Thomas Lowe,	Charles Ellis.
Edward Allport,	Thomas Cooke,	

4. Resolved,—That the Committee be requested to meet at the Public Office, at Six o'clock in the Evening, on the First Tuesday in every month, to receive such information from the Manufacturers as they may be able to communicate, calculated to further the views of this Meeting.

5. Resolved,—That Communication by Letter be addressed "To the Chairman of the Committee of Manufactures, at the Public Office."

6. Resolved,—That the Committee be empowered to publish the Proceedings of this Meeting in Aris's Birmingham Gazette, and in such other Way as they shall think proper.

7. Resolved,—That the thanks of this Meeting be given to those Gentlemen who have called the attention of the Manufacturers of this Town to so important a Subject.

WM. BLAKEWAY.

The Chairman having left the Chair, and Mr. Thomas Cooke being called to the same:—

8. Resolved,—That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman, for his impartial and independent Conduct in the Chair.

THOMAS COOKE.

Birmingham joined her voice to that of other towns in calling upon the legislature to protect the "climbing boys":—

TOWN'S MEETING.

February 16, 1818.—The public meeting convened for the purpose of petitioning the Legislature to prohibit the future employment of infant children as climbing boys in the Sweeping of Chimnies, was held at the Public Office, on Tuesday—the High Bailiff, William Cotterill, Esq., in the Chair. Mr. P. M. James, in proposing the resolutions adopted by the meeting, took a view of the miseries and dangers the poor children employed in this degrading occupation are necessarily subjected to; and of the success which has attended the use of improved machines in the Metropolis and other places, as an effectual substitute. A petition, embracing the spirit of the resolutions, was read and moved by the Rev. Edward Burn, who drew an affecting picture of the intellectual and moral debasement entailed upon this abject class of our fellow creatures, from the insulated state of Society in which they are placed, and from an almost total want of the means of moral and religious culture.

The Reverend Gentleman, in adverting to the peculiar disadvantages under which these pitiable objects labour, stated, that when the *poor sweep* has attended a Sunday School with the desire of receiving instruction, the children, even there, have been known to withdraw themselves from, and refuse society with him. The resolutions and petitions were, as must have been anticipated, unanimously agreed to. The thanks of those present were voted to Mr. James, for the interest and exertion he has made in calling the attention of our fellow townsmen to the subject. One of the resolutions passed by the meeting, strongly recommends the encouragement of those master chimney-sweepers of the town who will purchase and make use of the improved machines. In the hope of aiding the benevolent intention of the meeting, we would suggest that the Committee should procure a supply of the machines from London, and dispose of them to such of the master sweeps who will engage to use them skilfully.

The Petition, most respectably signed, was presented on Friday evening by Mr. Dugdale.

The manufacturers, however, were not so careful about the children employed in their own workshops; and as a matter of precaution the Chamber, which then answered to our present Chamber of Commerce, petitioned against Sir Robert Peel's Factory Act. The change of public

opinion on this subject is one of the healthiest signs of the time. In 1818, the Cotton Factories Bill was opposed from the very natural fear that it would be extended; in 1868 there is scarcely a manufacturer of any respectability who is not in favour of a Factory Act! The nation has heard "the cry of the children," and resolved to protect those who are neglected by their natural guardians. It was not so in 1818:—

March 30, 1818.—CHAMBER OF MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE.—A Bill having been introduced into the House of Commons, by Sir R. Peel, for the purpose of limiting the age at which children should be permitted to work in cotton factories, and for restricting the employment of all persons working therein, under 16 years of age, to a certain number of hours; and for appointing inspectors in such factories;—the Directors of the Chamber of Manufactures and Commerce, apprehensive lest the provisions of this Bill, if passed, should be afterwards extended to all manufactories whatever, have resolved upon presenting a petition to the House of Commons, praying that such Bill may not pass into a law, until it shall have been satisfactorily proved, by a report of a Commission of Members of that House, that the condition of persons working in cotton factories is such as to render the interference of the legislature necessary for securing their health and comfort.

We are accustomed to consider the servant difficulty as peculiar to the present time. The greatest "plague of life" troubled our forefathers quite as much as ourselves. The following letter proposing an Institution for the improvement of domestic servants affords a sad picture of their condition fifty years ago. This is probably a master's or a mistress's view; we wish it could be supplemented by one from the servants:—

DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

March 30th, 1818.—To the Editor of the Birmingham Gazette,—Sir,—Among the different Institutions established in this Town, for purposes of benevolence, and of promoting the well-being of the inhabitants, there is one, the importance of which appears to have escaped observation—though with deference, I consider it possesses a far greater claim to attention than at first sight it may appear to do, considering how much of our comfort and safety is involved in its consequences. I mean an Institution for the improvement and encouragement of *Domestic Female Servants. Is it not notorious, go into what Family you may, that its chief complaint, and I fear not unjustly, turns upon the insolence of one—the independence of another—the immorality of a third—and I was going to add, the ingratitude of all,* but perhaps I may, with more correctness, apply this epithet to most, throwing, by their improper conduct, those families with whom they are connected, and whose happiness depends so much upon their humour and caprice, into inquietude and confusion. Allow me then to ask, through the medium of your widely extended paper, whether an institution which has more immediately for its object the prevention or correction of these evils, and of course the improvement of morals in this description of individuals, would not, in this town, be attended with the greatest advantage? Establish-

ments of the kind have been instituted in London, Bristol, &c., where, from the reports of their respective committees, it would appear they have proved highly useful. I think I am not supposing too much when I add, that there is scarcely the head of a family in this neighbourhood who would not cheerfully send his five or ten shillings a year towards the support of its fund. With your permission I leave at your office the plan or outline of the Society established in Hatton Garden, of which the Duke of Kent is Patron; and should any one better qualified than the writer be disposed to put things in a state of progression, the end of this communication will be answered.

I am, Sir, yours obliged &c., W.

The following subject is one which touches Birmingham in a sore point. This town was the centre of the coining and forging industry of the kingdom. A Royal Commission was appointed this year to enquire into the best means of preventing forgeries of Bank Notes. A crime which was very common, notwithstanding that it was punished by our draconic laws with death. The *Gazette* thus notices the subject :—

BANK OF ENGLAND FORGERIES.

April 13, 1818.—We refer our readers with great satisfaction to the very numerous and highly respectable requisition inserted in this page, calling the attention of our fellow townsmen to the consideration of a question of peculiar interest to themselves, and vitally affecting the general prosperity of the country; and we are proud in the reflection that our own town will be the first to urge a legislative enquiry into the subject. The observations under this head in our last publication we are happy to find have been copied into many of the London as well as the provincial papers, and, we trust, that circumstance is but a prelude to the question being generally taken up in the same public manner. The temptation afforded by the comparative ease with which notes of the bank may be imitated has indeed proved a heavy affliction and highly injurious to the character of Birmingham—very few of the Assizes for the county having for many years passed without consigning some of its inhabitants, convicted of engaging in the execution or uttering of forgeries, to a long term of imprisonment, transportation, or death. The recently concluded assize furnishes a dreadful but remarkable illustration of this fact. No town in the kingdom will therefore have greater reason to hail with pleasure the adoption of any plan by which forgeries of bank paper may be, if not entirely prevented, at any rate placed above the execution, as at present, of almost the lowest class of engravers.

A public meeting was held on this subject on April 22, Mr. William Cotterill, High Bailiff, in the chair; and it was resolved, "That this Meeting, observing with feelings of deep concern the increasing number of Prosecutions arising from and out of the Forgery of Bank of England Notes, is of opinion that a due regard to public Morals, as well as public Credit and Security, requires that the utmost endeavours should be made to diminish the evil."

A Church Extension meeting was held in October, at which it was authoritatively stated that out of a population of 60,000 souls the

churches and chapels connected with the Establishment could not furnish accommodation for more than 7,630. At this meeting the following report was given on the

STATE OF ST. MARTIN'S PARISH.

Gross Population estimated at 60,000; Church Room as follows—

At St. Martin's Church . . .	2,200 persons
— St. Mary's Chapel . . .	2,000 ditto
— St. Paul's ditto	1,130 ditto
— St. Bartholomew's ditto . .	850 ditto
— Christ Church	1,500 ditto
	—— 7,630
One-third deducted for infants, sick, persons occupied, aged, &c. . . .	17,456
Total numbers of Persons unaccommodated with Church-room . . .	34,914
	52,370

Thus the erection of three churches within this parish, each calculated to contain 2,000 individuals, would still leave 28,914 persons unprovided for by the Establishment.

A meeting was held on November 4, at which it was resolved to build a Church or Chapel in Bordesley; and also, that "the upper Part of Mr. John Bradford's Land, adjoining to the Stratford Road Turnpike Road and to Snail's Lane, is a desirable situation." This was done, and the place of worship is known by the name of Holy Trinity Chapel. The two following extracts relate to church matters:—

Dec. 7, 1818.—Ebenezer Chapel, Steelhouse Lane, will be opened for public Worship on Wednesday next, the 9th of December, when the Rev. W. Thorpe, of Bristol, is expected to preach in the morning, at Eleven o'clock, and the Rev. S. Bradley, of Manchester, in the Evening at Six. A Collection will be made after each Service.

In order to prevent the Intrusion of improper Persons, Admission Tickets will be issued, which may be had gratis at the Vestry, Livery Street, on Tuesday, between the hours of Nine and Four.

Friends coming from the country on Wednesday Morning may be accommodated with Tickets by applying at Mr. Walker's, opposite the Chapel.

Dec. 28, 1818.—We feel great pleasure in announcing that the Commissioners appointed under the "Act for building and promoting the building of Churches in populous parishes," have determined, with a liberal consideration of the wants of our numerous population, immediately to build a new Church within the parish of St. Martin, out of the Parliamentary grant, provided a proper site for the building be procured. The board appointed by the Lord Bishop of the diocese are now actively engaged in making the necessary preliminary arrangements; and we understand that some gentlemen have kindly

engaged to solicit subscriptions from the principal inhabitants, at the commencement of the new year, in aid of the fund already formed for the purpose of providing a site for the intended building, and defraying any other expenses which may be incidental to the undertaking.

The introduction of gas into the town was an important event. On February 15, 1819, we read :—

A petition has been presented to the House of Commons, and leave obtained to bring in a bill for the establishment here of a chartered Gas-Light and Coke Company.—We understand the Commissioners of our Street Acts have appointed a Committee to see that proper clauses are introduced into the bill for the protection of the interests of the town. The subscription lists are already most respectably filled.

A warm and rather spirited agitation distinguished the early part of 1819. The Trustees of Christ Church made an application to Parliament to raise a sum of money by rate for the purpose of discharging the debts still outstanding, and for the erection or purchase of a parsonage house. A determined opposition was made to this proposal. A requisition, "numerously and respectably signed," was presented to the High Bailiff, calling upon him to convene a public meeting to consider the propriety of petitioning against the proceeding. This was done; and after many conferences and much discussion the Trustees abandoned their application.

One of the fiscal measures of this year was a proposed tax upon coal. Birmingham at once took the alarm, and held meetings to protest and petition against the imposition. A meeting was held on the 2nd of March; and on the 10th Sir Charles Mordaunt presented the petition in the House of Commons. The proposal was abandoned.

On May 17, we learn that "The Birmingham Gas Light Bill was read a second time in the House of Lords on Thursday night." It received the Royal assent on the 14th of the same month.

The Noncomformists will read the following extract with interest :—

NEW MEETING HOUSE, CARR'S LANE.

August 2, 1819.—On Friday morning the first stone of the intended New Meeting House in Carr's-lane, in this town, was laid by the Rev. John Angell James, in the presence of a numerous assemblage of spectators. By the judicious arrangements of the architect, aided by the building committee, the ceremony was conducted with the greatest order and decorum, and without the slightest accident or alarm. The devotional parts of the proceedings, in which the Rev. T. East and the Rev. J. Birt engaged, were solemn and affecting. Hymns were sung by the assembly, and one by the children of the congregation. Mr. James delivered an animated and appropriate address to those assembled on

the occasion, in his usual impressive and energetic manner. The intended Meeting House, when complete, will be the third that has been erected on nearly the same site within the space of 72 years. It is intended to accommodate 2,100 persons, of which 350 free sittings will be appropriated to the use of the poor, and 300 for the children of the Sunday Schools connected with the society.

Nov. 1, 1819.—New Meeting House, Carr's Lane.—As an instance of unparalleled dispatch in the erection of public buildings in this town, it is due to the Architect and Committee for conducting the building of the New Meeting House in Carr's Lane, and especially to the spirited exertions of the Builder, to mention, that although the Committee voluntarily extended the time, yet the building was covered in on Saturday, one day within the period originally contracted for.

Upon the last slate was engraved the following inscription:—

"Memoranda.—On the 30th day of July, 1819, the first stone of this building was laid by the Rev. John Angell James, the Minister. On the 30th day of October, in the same year, this, the last slate was laid by Henry Leneve Holland, the builder, in the presence of Stedman Thomas Whitwell, the architect.—*Laus Deo.*"

Some idea of the magnitude of this chapel may be formed by stating, that it contains, within its external boundaries, about 305,000 cubic feet.

The members of the Chamber of Commerce were not inactive this year, but pursuing their important work with the earnestness which has always distinguished this class in Birmingham. Here is a record of one of their labours:—

CHAMBER OF MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE.

Oct. 4, 1819.—We are glad to observe by the Report of the Chamber of Manufactures and Commerce that the attention of the Committee has been directed to the consideration of the present commercial treaties allowing exclusive privileges to the subjects of foreign governments, in conformity with that short-sighted policy which, by giving peculiar facilities to the importation of the inferior but more costly productions of our foreign customers, has the effect of obliging our countrymen to accept of a much less profitable return for their shipments from a comparatively ill-supplied market, and consequently of diminishing those resources of wealth which ought to be the foundation of the revenue of the state. Thus the inferior wines of Portugal are admitted at a duty considerably less than that imposed upon the wines of France, and the heavy duties upon the productions of the latter country operate as a prohibition to the importation of them, and hence the beneficial trade which would naturally arise, either directly or circuitously, from a liberal intercourse with the latter country, is sacrificed to a narrow and mistaken policy.

On Dec. 13, we read:—

CHAMBER OF MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE.

It will be satisfactory to our readers to learn that the acknowledgement of the Memorial from the Chamber, on the subject of a Commercial Treaty with France, is accompanied with an assurance "that the Lords of the Board of Trade are fully sensible of the importance of the question, and will not fail to give it their most anxious consideration; and

that it had, indeed, already occupied much of their attention." We earnestly hope the endeavours of our Government may be assisted by a favourable disposition on the part of France in obtaining so desirable an object.

The "good old King." George III., died on January 29, 1820, at the ripe age of 83; and George IV., who had been nine years Regent, reigned in his stead. Birmingham shared in the genuine sorrow of the nation at the death of the "Father of his people." His successor was proclaimed here on Thursday, February 3, with the usual signs of loyalty, and amid the ordinary display of loyal enthusiasm and rejoicings. The funeral day of the deceased monarch was kept with due solemnity; and on the 23rd, a "suitable address, to be presented to his Majesty on his succession," was adopted "at a numerous and highly respectable assembly of our fellow townsmen.

The first stone of St. George's Church, the first new church erected in this town by Commissioners under the Church Building Act, was laid on the 19th of April. The following is the contemporary description of the building:—

The designs from which the work is to be executed present a strictly correct model of the best period of English ecclesiastical architecture, of which the injudicious alterations made, from time to time, among our church buildings of that date, have, it is to be lamented, left us so few good specimens. When finished, we have no boubt, it will reflect great credit upon the talents, taste, and research of the architect, and cannot but prove highly ornamental to the town. The local position of the church will render the tower the most conspicuous object from the top of Snow Hill, and its elevated situation will cause it to form a prominent feature from most of the approaches to the town. It is to be erected at the expence of little more than twelve thousand pounds, and will be capable of affording accommodation for upwards of two thousand persons. Every well wisher to the extension of Christian principles, whether of the establishment or among dissenters, will rejoice at the advancement of so good a work; it must, however, still be recollected, that when this and other places of Christian worship in progress are completed, there will yet remain want of accommodation for nearly forty thousand of our gross population.

On the 18th of the same month "the Rev. Stephen Weaver Browne, as one of the pastors of the congregation assembling at the Old Meeting-house in this town, laid the first stone of a large building intended for the use of the Sunday Schools supported by that society."

The petition from Birmingham on the distressed state of the manufactures was presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Dugdale on the 12th of May, and Mr. Brougham, in a very eloquent speech, drew a pathetic picture of the state of the times. Our manufacturers, how-

ever, might have found a little consolation in the following item of news :—

May 29, 1820.—We have great pleasure in observing, by several of the London papers, that a new button, of a gold thread pattern, is generally adopted in the fashionable circle of the metropolis, which, we understand, has already created a considerable demand for the articles in this town.

The first stone of Holy Trinity Chapel, Bordesley, was laid, with Masonic honours, by the Earl of Plymouth, on Friday, September 29, 1820.

King George IV. signalized this year by his disgraceful attempt to pass an Act of Pains and Penalties against his foolish and unfortunate wife, Queen Caroline. The Bill passed the Lords by a majority of nine, which was very properly accepted by the ministers as a defeat, and to the great joy of the country, the shameful measure was abandoned.

The news of the Queen's victory was thus received in Birmingham:—

Nov. 20, 1820.—Although the news of the abandonment of the proceedings against the Queen was by no means received here with that general and open expression of feeling that has shown itself in many other places, yet as soon as it was understood that the metropolis had illuminated, a number of the inhabitants made active preparations to evince their satisfaction at the event in a similar way. In consequence, a hand-bill was issued about noon on Monday by our constables, requesting the inhabitants would refrain from illuminating until the following evening. This notice, which it seems was published contrary to the advice of the Magistrates, has, it is to be regretted, given rise to a public manifestation of the contrariety of opinion which exists as to the interference of those officers on the occasion. A protest, signed by a number of inhabitants, censuring the conduct of the Constables, appeared very shortly after the illumination had taken place, which it will be seen is now followed by a counter protest in full approbation of the step adopted by them.

The notice of the Constables had certainly the effect of rendering the illumination more general than it otherwise would have been. The streets, many of them, were well lighted up, though it was very evident that a great number of houses exhibited lights merely for the protection of their windows, while others were occasionally to be seen enveloped in total gloom. A number of small transparencies and devices were exhibited, many windows were tastefully lighted up, and several houses in different parts of the town made a brilliant display of variegated lamps. The populace appeared fully to enjoy the scene, and there was lack of fireworks, discharging of guns, pistols, &c., to the annoyance of those who wished quietly to gratify their curiosity abroad. The police were early upon the alert, and were stationed by the Magistrates, in proper situations, to protect those who might refuse to light up. We are happy, however, to say that, as far as we can learn, no attempt was made by the populace to force a compliance with their wishes, either by intimidation or violence. The crowd busily amused themselves in their own way, and when satisfied they retired quietly to their homes, and the lights were extinguished at an early hour.

The following is a copy of the hand-bill issued by the Constables :—

The Constables of Birmingham, understanding that it is the wish and intention of the Inhabitants to illuminate their houses this evening, in consequence of the withdrawing of the Bill which had been introduced into the House of Lords against her Majesty the Queen, beg to suggest to their fellow townsmen that the Public Accommodation will be best consulted by illuminating for one evening, viz., To-morrow (Tuesday), the 14th instant.

The Constables also think proper to state that they shall, on the occasion now referred to, put in force such Regulations as cannot fail to promote and secure the utmost Peace and Tranquility.

JAMES BEALE,
THOMAS RUTHERFORD,
JOSEPH GIBBS, Headborough, } Constables.

November 13, 1820.

A numerously signed protest against the conduct of the officials was published :—

Birmingham, Nov. 20, 1820.—We, the undersigned, hereby express our unqualified Disapprobation of the Conduct of the Constables of the Town on issuing a Hand Bill on Monday last, stating that it was the Wish and intention of the inhabitants to Illuminate on the Occasion of the Bill of Pains and Penalties against the Queen being withdrawn. As far as the Sense of the Inhabitants has been ascertained by us, it was neither their Wish nor Intention to Illuminate. We do, therefore, protest against the Proceedings of the Constables, whereby in our Opinion, the Peace of the Town and the Property of Individuals were wantonly endangered; and especially as we understand this Hand Bill was published in direct Opposition to the Opinion and Advice of the Magistrates, who had been previously consulted on the subject by the Constables themselves.

A much larger number of the inhabitants issued a brief notice expressing their approval of the Constables; and so this "storm in a tea-pot" ended :—

Nov. 20, 1820.—We, the undersigned, having observed with Regret the appearance of a Protest, censuring the Constables of Birmingham for the Publication of the above Advertisement, which, we are convinced, originated in their becoming and laudable Anxiety to preserve the Tranquility of the Town; and being aware of the impropriety of subjecting constituted Authority, of any Rank, to inconsiderate and disrespectful Imputations, think it right thus publicly to declare our entire Approbation of their Conduct on this Occasion.

The Birmingham people took their share in the philanthropic labours of endeavouring to improve our draconic criminal code. The report of the meeting held on this subject is highly honourable to the liberality of their opinions :—

May 14, 1821.—At a numerous and respectable Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood of Birmingham, held at the Public Office in Moor Street, on

Friday, the eleventh Day of May, 1821, pursuant to a Requisition to the High Bailiff, duly convened by public Advertisement, to take into Consideration the Propriety of Petitioning the Legislative for a Revision of the Criminal Laws,

G. F. Muntz, Esq., High Bailiff, in the Chair,

The following Resolutions were unanimously passed :—

First.—Upon the Motion of Charles Lloyd, Esq., and seconded by the Rev. John Corrie :—That this Meeting having observed, with the greatest Regret and Alarm, the great and progressive increase of Crime in this District, as well as the other Parts of the United Kingdom, are of Opinion that this Evil would be diminished by the Revision of the Criminal Laws, and by adopting a graduated Scale of Punishment proportioned to the Degree of Crime, with a View of rendering the Infliction of such Punishment more certain.

Second.—Upon the Motion of S. T. Galton, Esq., and seconded by the Rev. J. A. James :—That the Petition (now read) be presented to both Houses of Parliament.

Third.—Upon the Motion of George Lee, Esq., the Low Bailiff, seconded by P. M. James, Esq. :—That Lord Calthorpe be respectfully requested to present the Petition to the House of Lords, and that the Members for the County be also requested to present the Petition to the House of Commons.

Fourth.—Upon the Motion of William Beale, Esq., seconded by Thomas Ryland, Esq. :—That the High Bailiff, with the Gentlemen who signed the Requisition, be appointed a Committee for carrying the above Resolutions into effect, and to adopt such other Measures as to them may appear necessary.

G. F. Muntz, High Bailiff.

The High Bailiff having left the Chair, the same being taken by S. T. Galton, Esq. :—Resolved unanimously,—That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the High Bailiff, for his able and impartial Conduct in the Chair.

Our next extract records an event which, at the time, excited considerable interest; and which was looked upon by the superstitious with much alarm and fear :—

Disinterment of Mr. Baskerville.

May 28, 1821.—It is in the recollection of many of the inhabitants of this place that Mr. John Baskerville, celebrated for the improvement he made in letter-founding, was buried, by an express direction contained in his will, in his own ground, in a mausoleum erected for the purpose previous to his decease. Upon his death the ground was sold, and passed into the hands of John Ryland, Esq., and from him to his son, Samuel Ryland, Esq., who, a few years ago, demised it to Mr. Gibson for a long term, who has since cut a canal through it, and converted the remainder into wharf land. Soon after Mr. Ryland became the possessor of this property, the mausoleum, which was a small conical building, was taken down, and, it was rumoured at the time, that the body had been removed.

This proves, however, to be unfounded, for it appears that a short time before Christmas last some workmen, who were employed in getting gravel, discovered the leaden coffin. It was however immediately covered up, and remained untouched until a few days since, when, the spot having been recently let for a wharf, it became necessary to remove the

coffin, and it was accordingly disinterred, and deposited in Messrs. Gibson and Son's warehouse, where a few individuals were allowed to inspect it. The body was in a singular state of preservation, considering that it had been under ground about 46 years. It was wrapt in a linen shroud, which was very perfect and white, and on the breast lay a branch of laurel, faded, but entire, and firm in texture. There were also leaves, and sprigs of bay and laurel in other parts of the coffin and on the body. The skin on the face was dry but perfect. The eyes were gone, but the eyebrows, eyelashes, lips, and teeth remained. The skin on the abdomen and body generally was in the same state with that of the face. An exceedingly offensive and oppressive effluvia, strongly resembling decayed cheese, arose from the body, and rendered is necessary to close the coffin in a short time, and it has since been consigned to his surviving connexions for the purpose of re-interment. It was first supposed, by those who examined the body, that some artificial means had been employed to protect it from putrefaction, but, on enquiry, it was not ascertained that this was the case. The putrefactive process must have been arrested by the leaden coffin having been sealed hermetically, and thus the access of air, which modern discoveries have ascertained is essential to putrefaction, was prevented.

George IV. was crowned on July 19, and the coronation festivities in Birmingham were carried out with the utmost enthusiasm. The poor were fed; the rich gave dinners and balls; and the illuminations are recorded as being unprecedentedly brilliant and magnificent. A public dinner was given at the Royal Hotel. In the course of the evening the "following lines, hastily written for the occasion by the Rev. Rann Kennedy, were recited by Mr. Vandenhoff, of the Theatre, in a highly impressive manner" :—

Assembled countrymen, who mingle here
The flow of soul with plenty's festal cheer,
Well might ye long, in all its gorgeous state,
To *view* the solemn act ye celebrate:
Well might ye burn, as patriots, to survey
The scene that blazons this auspicious day;
Where beauty, rank, and sanctity combin'd,
By turns delight, impress, and awe the mind;
Where all that fills and fires the busy thought,
In rich variety to sight is brought;
All that proclaims what this our native land
Now boasts as costly, wondrous, lov'd, or grand,
With countless symbols that, to fancy's eye,
Tell what she was in ages long gone by.
There all her Chivalry, with crest and star,
The wise in council, and the great in war,
A sacred band, around their King unite,
To witness and to seal the Holy Rite
Which crowns the royal heir of Brunswick's stem,
In Britain's name, with Britain's diadem.

But ere it circles his anointed brow,
They hear him speak the great, momentous vow,
The vow which consecrates a monarch's throne,
His rights and duties binding with our own.
No sound, no murmur, scarce a breath is heard,
Attending thousands hang on every word;
He swears for us to think, for us to feel,
To act, to reign, to live, for Albion's weal;
To guard our freedom's ark, protect our laws,
And stand the champion of Religion's cause.
It is the lot of others, not of you,
This great solemnity to share or view;
Yet are ye in the mightier train of those,
To whom its glory and its worth it owes.
'Tis yours to swell the rapture it imparts,
And crown your sovereign with consenting hearts;
To hear, in thought, his lips for you declare
What his breast owns as its presiding care,
And feel *your* breasts, in answering purpose, glow
With all that Britons to their Monarch owe.
Ye join to crown him with the shouts that rise,
And prayers, the breath of millions, to the skies;
Ye give the poor this day his name to bless,
And crown him with *their* mirth and happiness;
Ye crown him with a meed all pomp above,—
Ye join to crown him with a nation's love.
Then let brimm'd wine cups mantle on the board
Round which your loyal tide of soul is pour'd;
And, through this dome, be these the words that ring,
While your hearts echo them, "God save the King!"

In July we have this paragraph referring to the efforts now being made to extend our foreign trade, by breaking up the East India monopoly :—

CHAMBER OF MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE.

July 30, 1821.—We refer our readers to the report of the Committee for gratifying information on the subject of the extension of our Foreign Trade, which, during the last session, engaged the most assiduous attention of Committees of both Houses of the Legislative. Amongst other measures likely to result from the inquiries of these Committees, an Act has passed to allow any of his Majesty's subjects "to trade to and at any intermediate ports or places situate between the United Kingdom and the East Indies, and belonging to any prince, state, or country in amity with his Majesty; and to carry or trade and traffic, directly or circuitously, in any goods, wares, or merchandize whatever," with the sole exception of the dominions of the Emperor of China. Thus a most important extension is obtained of our Free Trade to the East Indies, and by the establishment of free ports in the Indian Seas, great advantages, from which the subjects of this country have hitherto been excluded, are thrown open to the enterprise and capital of British

merchants. It will be in the recollection of many of our readers, that the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce presented a Memorial to the Lords of the Treasury, and Petitions to the Legislative, for the revisal of the Laws restricting our Foreign Commerce, and it is creditable to the persevering exertions of the Birmingham Chamber to observe, that it is owing to their petitions, and to those of similar commercial bodies in other large towns, that the Committees of Parliament were appointed, whose enlightened inquiries are likely to prove so beneficial to the Trade and Commerce of the united kingdom.

The unhappy Queen died on August 7, and on the 13th this notice of the receipt of the news in Birmingham appeared :—

August 13, 1821.—The earliest tidings of the afflictive and melancholy termination of her late Majesty's eventful and checquered career were brought to this town by the Courier day coach, which reached Mr. Hart's office at half-past Seven on the Wednesday evening. The news rapidly spread, and was generally known prior to the arrival of the mail on the following morning. The latter bringing the Gazette account of Her Majesty's demise, the bells of our two parish churches commenced tolling soon after its arrival, and continued at intervals throughout the day. Our Theatre was in consequence closed on that evening; and it will be seen that the meeting to address his Majesty on his Coronation, intended to have been held on Wednesday next, is postponed by the High Bailiff until after her Majesty's funeral.

With this extract we close the record of the public life of a decade full of activity, and rich in labours of great local importance and abiding interest.

§ 3. EDUCATION AND LITERATURE.

As we approach nearer to the present time, we meet with a continually growing activity in providing education for the people. The ten years, the labours of which we are now recording, were especially fruitful in this respect. Schools, on the system of Bell, were founded; schools for the education of the poor in connection with the established church; the Birmingham Academy of Arts was formed, and the first exhibition of pictures held; and last, but not least, the Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb was established in this decade. Not a trifling or unimportant series of labours for ten years in the history of any town.

In the spring of 1812 the good work commenced; and on March the 9th of that year we find the following paragraph :—

Education of Poor Children.

A most respectable meeting of the Members of the Church of England residing in this place and neighbourhood was held at the Blue Coat Charity School, on Friday, to consider of the means of establishing "Schools in Birmingham for the Education of the Poor in connexion with the Established Church." The Rev. Charles Curtis opened the business of the meeting in a most animated speech, a copy of which we were promised, but had not been able to obtain when this paper was put to press. Dr. Outram and the Rev. E. Burn also addressed the meeting; and the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

In a fortnight after we find the Committee were at work :—

March 23, 1812.—At a Meeting of the Committee, held at the Blue Coat Charity School, on Tuesday, the 17th of March 1812,—It was Resolved,—That the Donations to this Institution be applied, in the first place, to the erection or purchase of plain unornamental Buildings for School Rooms.

Large Rooms Wanted.—It being the wish of the Committee to establish and open, as speedily as possible, a sufficient number of Schools in different parts of the town, it is requested that those persons who have detached Rooms or Buildings, suitable for the purpose, to sell or to let until proper Buildings can be erected, will apply to Mr. Burrish, Temple Row, one of the Sub-committee.

Wm. Johnson, Sec.

July 27, 1812.—We have great pleasure to observe from an advertisement in this page of our paper that the Institution for the Education of the Poor in connexion with the Established Church, intend to commence their benevolent labours on Monday next, at the rooms in Temple Row, which they have hired as a temporary accommodation. The large building now erecting in Pinfold Street and Peck Lane is expected (as we are informed from good authority) to be ready very soon after Michaelmas.

Aug. 10, 1812.—So exceedingly numerous have been the applications for admission to the schools of this institution that the Committee have determined, by an unanimous vote, to add to their original plan of the School now erecting in Pinfold Street, and to enlarge it so as to accommodate near one thousand children. In doing this they have confided much in the known liberality of the inhabitants of Birmingham, by incurring an expense far beyond their funds; but as the cause in which they are engaged is the cause of every friend of pure religion, moral virtue, and social order, they have no doubt of the public support to enable them to complete their undertaking. The donations are intended to be first applied to this purpose, and as the weekly expenditure is now very considerable, it is particularly requested that all subscriptions not yet paid in may be immediately sent to the treasurers, Messrs. Coales, Woolley, and Gordon.

On November 30, we read :—"Dr. Bell has lately been in this town, and inspected the school recently established here on the Madras system; the rapid progress of which, in the great work of educating the children of poor persons, gave him much satisfaction." And on December 14 was published the following interesting report of the labours of the Royal Lancasterian Free School since its foundation in September, 1809.

December 14, 1812.—The Committee of the Royal Lancasterian Free School, appointed for its management during the year 1812, have agreed to the following report:—Since the first establishment of this Institution in September, 1809, 878 boys have been admitted, of these 478 have left the school; of the 400 boys that remain,

238 are in the daily habit of reading the Scriptures.
43 read words of two syllables.
52 spell words of four or five syllables.
37 spell words of three letters.
15 spell words of two letters.
15 are in the alphabet or sand class.

All the boys in the school, with the exception of those only who are in the sand class, are in the daily habit of writing upon slates, and of these there are 50 who write also upon paper.

The number of boys comprised in the different arithmetical classes is 195.

Great pains have been taken to impress upon the minds of the parents the importance of religious instruction; with this view they have been directed either to introduce their children into Sunday Schools, or to take them regularly to a place of worship.

The committee have much satisfaction in believing that their recommendation in this respect has been very generally attended to. In order to satisfy themselves on this head, they have occasionally directed the master to obtain a correct account of the employment of the children on some particular Sunday. The following statement, which is founded on the return made of the boys who attended the school on the 19th of November, will account for their mode of spending the Sabbath immediately preceding it:

213 attending Sunday Schools.
84 were taken to church.
76 were taken to their respective Meetings.
4 were taken to the Synagogue.
12 were unable to leave home in consequence of illness, or accidents, and
11 were detained by their parents.

The Schools of Industry, in Water Street, were among the most praiseworthy of our educational efforts. The following paragraph explains their objects:—

SCHOOLS OF INDUSTRY, WATER-STREET.

March 8, 1813.—On Wednesday, the 10th inst., being the day appointed for a General Fast, Collections will be made in the Morning and Evening, at St Mary's, in behalf of this Charity, after Sermons by the Rev. Edward Burn, M.A., Minister. The Service to begin in the Morning at Half-past Ten, and in the Evening at Half-past Six o'clock.

The public are respectfully informed, that the Design of this Charity is to teach poor Girls to read, write, sew, and knit, and to instruct them in the Principles of the Christian Religion. They have also an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the most necessary Branches of Household Work. There are at present in the Day and Night Schools, 160 Girls. The Day Schools, which contain one Half of this Number, consist chiefly of younger Girls; and the Night Schools, which receive the Remainder, are intended for an

elder Class, who are for the most part employed in the Manufactories during the Day; and, but for this and similar Charities, must in general be deprived of the Advantages of Instruction. The Children assemble twice every Sabbath at their respective Schools, and regularly attend Divine Service. The intended Collections are designed to enable the Committee of Ladies who superintend this Charity, to extend and improve the Plan by fitting up a Room already built for the Purpose, and sufficiently capacious to accommodate 100 Girls in the Day School, and the same number in the Evening.

The first annual meeting of the friends of the institution for the education of the poor in connexion with the Church of England was held at the Blue Coat School, on March 9, 1813. It appears from the report that the receipts for the year were £1,074 17*s.*, and the expenditure £1,117 18*s.* 2*d.*, leaving a balance due to the treasurer of £43 1*s.* 2*d.* The report informs us that "the Committee, desirous that the Benefits of the Institution should begin to be felt as early as possible, engaged two contiguous Rooms in Temple Row; and having procured a Master, whose Qualifications for the Office they have hitherto had great Reason to appreciate very highly, they opened one of these Rooms as a School on the 3rd of August, and have admitted 239 Boys, of whom upwards of 200 are now daily receiving Instruction."

Our next extract is the report of the opening of the Pinfold Street School:—

NEW CHARITY SCHOOL.

April 26, 1813.—On Thursday, the large new-erected School, in Pinfold Street, in this town, established on Dr. Bell's (or the Madras) system of educating poor children, was opened to the public. Previous to the ceremony the children of this school, with the children belonging to King Edward's free grammar schools, the Blue Coat school, the School of Industry, and the Sunday schools connected with the Church of England, consisting in the whole of 2,700, assembled at the Blue Coat school, in St. Philip's churchyard; from thence, at half-past ten o'clock, they proceeded in procession, attended by their instructors, and headed by the clergy, to St. Martin's Church, where an excellent sermon was delivered by the Rector, the Rev. Charles Curtis, in the course of which the preacher drew a comparison of the respective merits and advantages of the Madras and Lancasterian systems, and concluded by recommending to his audience, as members of the Established Church, the zealous support of the former. After service a collection was made for the benefit of the school; the children of which then repaired to the new school-room, where a suitable address on the occasion was made by Mr. Curtis, who concluded the ceremony by a prayer for the success of the institution. A second collection was made at the door as the company separated, after witnessing a spectacle highly interesting to the cause of religion and humanity.

The following literary advertisement will be read with interest by many:—

May 31, 1813.—This Day is published, in three Volumes, 12mo., Price 15*s.* Boards, The Miser Married. A Novel. By Catherine Hutton.

We are now on the eve of one of the most important educational labours yet undertaken in the town. As early as January, 1794, a "Well-wisher"* had pointed out the importance of the arts of drawing and design to a town like Birmingham. The suggestion was made too early to produce immediate practical results; but like all such suggestions, it only waited until the time was ripe for its adoption to be of great service. As general education advanced, the want of Art instruction would be more and more deeply felt; and in the end the want is sure to be supplied. Birmingham had now arrived at that period in her history when a greater attention to Art was becoming a necessity. With the growth of wealth, and the consequent improvement of manners, a desire for pictures and ornament was sure to arise, and with the demand, as usual, the supply would come. Accordingly, on April 11, 1814, the following announcement was published:—

BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY OF ARTS.

At a Period when Taste for the Fine Arts is become so generally diffused, and Societies for the express Purpose of encouraging and advancing them are established in many of the principal Towns in the United Kingdom, that Birmingham, as the Nurse of elegant and useful Arts, should so long have wanted an Association of her Artists, of such manifest Importance and Advantage to her mercantile Interests, must be regarded as a Circumstance altogether accidental, and by no means warranting any surmise that the higher Arts of Design would languish in her atmosphere for Want of Judges to estimate and Patrons to reward them; or that her Artists would discover any Inferiority of Talents to those of other Places, were but a fair Field opened for bringing them into Action. On the contrary, convinced by their own Experience that Birmingham possesses many local and peculiar Advantages for assembling and exhibiting Works of Art, encouraged by the liberal Spirit of its Inhabitants, and by the particular attention now excited to Subjects of Art and Science nearly allied to their own, a Society, composed of resident Artists and Amateurs, announce their Intention of opening an annual Exhibition.

Not resting entirely, however, on their own Judgment, nor satisfied with their own Pretensions, they felt the Propriety of submitting their Plan to the Opinion of some of the first Professors in the Metropolis, who have not only encouraged it with their warm approbation, but have also given it the Sanction of their Names as Honorary Members; a Circumstance highly flattering indeed to the Associates in this Undertaking, but on which they are fully sensible that they must not build their Hopes of public Favour, but in strict Proportion as their Exertions and Productions shall give them a fair Title to public Estimation.

* *Vide* vol. i., p. 82.

Among the more obvious advantages of this Institution it may be considered as the means of creating in the public mind a lively operative Interest in the Pursuits and Works of Art, and consequently of exciting the Industry of Professors, and of promoting among them that ardent and honourable emulation which is a most powerful agent in producing professional excellence. The Institution of the Royal Academy was the commencement of a new and auspicious era to the British Artist; and the progressive improvements of the Arts of Design in this country, from that period to the present, is principally ascribed to the annual assemblage and exhibition of the masterly compositions of British Artists. To places, however, far distant from the capital, those genial influences do but feebly extend. Sources of knowledge and improvement so remote are in vain opened to a numerous and ingenious class in this neighbourhood, debarred of travelling far from the scene of their employment, yet possessed of great natural talent which, from being unassisted and unpatronized, are lost to themselves and to society. From the same cause also the means are wanting to many a provincial artist of having his powers excited, and his attainments rewarded. These it is one object of this Exhibition to supply. Concealed merit will thus be brought to light and stimulated to exertion.

An additional motive to the promoters of this plan was the situation of Birmingham in the midst of a populous and opulent district, abounding to a wide extent in lovers and judges of the Arts. To these such an establishment may prove a centre of attraction; it may unite Opulence and Taste with Genius and Skill in the advancement of imitative art, and the embellishment of manufactures; it may kindle the Fire of Emulation in the concourse of congenial minds; it may create a fund of Knowledge and Experience, out of which every Disciple of Art may draw something to assist his conceptions, to increase the stores of his fancy, to facilitate his studies, to rectify his errors, or supply his defects. When the several motives, therefore, which led to the formation of this Society are duly considered, it may be reasonably expected that the works of every Artist and *Amateur*, whose residence within the prescribed limits, and whose abilities entitles them to the distinction, will be found annually assembled in Birmingham, and that their combined efforts will be received with that degree of respect which is necessary to ensure their continuance, and with that indulgence which an infant establishment will necessarily require.

The Society pledge themselves for the Impartiality of their Proceedings. No Considerations shall induce them to swerve from the Conduct prescribed to them, by a Regard to the Success and Reputation of their Establishment, and in the general Taste of those whose Judgment they respect, and whose approbation, therefore, it will always be their principal Study to obtain.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

In the Department of Painting.

Benjamin West, Esq., President of the Royal Academy.

Thomas Phillips, Esq., Royal Academican.

J. M. W. Turner, Esq., Royal Academician, and Professor of Perspective in the Royal Academy.

In the Department of Sculpture.

John Flaxman, Esq., Royal Academician, and Professor of Sculpture in the Royal Academy.

Richard Westmacott, Esq., Royal Academician.

In the Department of Architecture.

John Soane, Esq., Royal Academician, and Professor of Architecture in the Royal Academy.

In the Department of Engraving.

James Heath, Esq., Associate of the Royal Academy.
Charles Warren, Esq.

In the Department of Anatomy.

G. De Lys, M.D., and John Blount, Jun., Esq.

Conditions for the Reception of Pictures, &c.

1. That those Artists and Amateurs only, who are permanently resident within 30 miles of Birmingham, be eligible as Exhibitors.

2. That the Exhibition shall consist of original Paintings, in Oil and Water Colours, Sculptures, Models, Architectural Designs, Engravings, Pictures in Crayons, Miniatures, and Impressions from Medal Dies, and from Engravings on precious Stones.

3. That the Admission or Rejection of all Works sent for Exhibition shall depend on the Decision of a Committee, composed of an equal Number of Amateurs and Professors.

4. That Pictures sent for Exhibition shall be properly framed, with or without Glasses, having the Name and Address of the Artist or Amateur, and a Description of the Subject, to appear in the Catalogue, pasted on the Back, and those Works which are intended for Sale must be accompanied by a written Communication, stating the Terms upon which they are to be disposed of.

The Society, however, will not be accountable for Breaking of Glasses, or for any Accidents that may happen to the Works sent for Exhibition, although the utmost Care shall be taken to protect them.

5. That the Exhibition shall open the first Week in September, 1814, and that Pictures and other Works of Art intended for Exhibition must be delivered on the 22nd, 23rd, or 24th of August preceding.

An early Intimation will be given of the Place of Exhibition.

Those Artists and Amateurs who intend to become Exhibitors are requested to communicate their Intention to the Secretary as early as possible, stating the probable Number and Sizes of their Productions, that the Society may calculate accordingly.

Birmingham, April 9, 1814. J. Vincent Barber, Secretary.

The new society soon arranged for its first exhibition. One of the greatest illustrators of Warwickshire, the colleague of David Cox, De Wint, &c., &c., J. Vincent Barber, was the first secretary; and on August 15 the following advertisement was published :—

Birmingham Academy of Arts.

Those Persons who intend to become Exhibitors at the ensuing Exhibition are requested to attend to the following

Conditions for the Reception of Pictures, &c.

1. That those Artists and Amateurs only, who are permanently resident within thirty miles of Birmingham, be eligible as Exhibitors.

2. That the Exhibition shall consist of original Paintings in Oil and Water Colours, Sculptures, Models, Architectural Designs, Engravings, Pictures in Crayons, Miniatures, Impressions from Medal Dies, and from Engravings on precious stones.

3. That the Admission or Rejection of all Works sent for Exhibition shall depend on the Decision of a Committee, comprised of an equal Number of Amateurs and Professors.

4. That Pictures sent for Exhibition shall be properly framed, with or without Glasses, having the Name and Address of the Artist or Amateur, and a Description of the Subject to appear in the Catalogue pasted on the back; and those works which are intended for Sale must be accompanied by a written Communication, stating the Terms upon which they are to be disposed of. The Society, however, will not be accountable for Breakage of Glasses, or for any Accidents that may happen to the Works sent for Exhibition, although the utmost care shall be taken to protect them.

5. That the Exhibition shall open the first week in September, 1814, and that Pictures and other Works of Art intended for Exhibition must be delivered on the 22nd, 23rd, or 24th of August preceding, at the Society's Room, adjoining the Fire Office, in Union Street.

Those Artists and Amateurs who intend to become Exhibitors are requested to communicate their Intention to the Secretary as early as possible, stating the probable Number and Sizes of their Productions, that the Society may calculate accordingly.

J. Vincent Barber, Secretary.

In this year one of our famous medallists received a metropolitan recognition of his merits :—

June 6, 1814.—Mr. William Wyon (son of Mr. P. Wyon), of this town, has been presented with a second gold medal for a Die Engraving, by the Society of Arts and Sciences, Adelphi, London.

The first Exhibition of Pictures was open on Monday, September 12, 1814. It was held in a room in Union Passage, at the back of the (late) Birmingham Fire Offices. The following two brief paragraphs is all that the newspaper of the day has to say on this great and happily permanent work :—

Academy of Arts.

Sept. 19, 1814.—We are desirous of directing the attention of our readers to the first exhibition of the Academy of Arts, an institution reflecting great credit upon its projectors, and which promises to be of very considerable advantage and benefit to the town. The exhibition room was first opened on Monday, since which its visitors have daily increased, all of whom, we understand, have expressed themselves much delighted with the many choice specimens of art which may there be found. We trust the spirited and praiseworthy exertions of a few individuals who have commenced this undertaking will be liberally supported by all lovers of art and science.

Oct. 3, 1814.—At a period when this town is about to be honoured with the presence of a great portion of the rank and opulence of the surrounding counties, we feel particularly anxious to direct the public attention to this society, which, from the excellent arrangements projected by its institutors, appears well calculated to promote a more extended culture of the fine arts, and of consequence a more general advancement of public taste. The first annual exhibition has already excited great interest in the town and its immediate vicinage, and is universally allowed, by those whose knowledge, taste, and judgment in the arts enable them to decide with accuracy, to possess many works of peculiar merit. It is the intention of the members and friends of the institution, so soon as the state of their funds will admit, to erect a handsome building, where the academy will be permanently established, and where the artist, whose talents might otherwise continue buried in obscurity, will, by means of the annual exhibition, have an opportunity of giving effectual publicity to his productions. We have no doubt but that our fellow townsmen will exert themselves in a cause of so much local interest; and we confidently trust that among the strangers who may be induced to visit their first essay, many will be found who need only to be made acquainted with plans for the promotion of the arts to become strenuous patrons and supporters.

The new Society issued the following advertisement :—

BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY OF ARTS.

October 3, 1814.—The First Exhibition of the Works of Artists, permanently resident within thirty miles of Birmingham, is Now Open to the Public at a temporary Room in Union Street.

Admission 1s. Catalogue 6d. Tickets of admission for the Season, 5s.

J. V. BARBER, Secretary.

The Members of the Academy of Arts deem it proper to lay before the Public a Plan for the Reception of Donations. The Unfitness of the present Exhibition Room, and the general Advantages to be derived from the Establishment on an extended Scale, will, they trust, justify an Appeal for pecuniary Aid towards the erection of a commodious Building, which may be suitable to the General Purposes of an Academy and of annual Exhibitions. During the short period which has elapsed since its opening, the Society are induced to hope that a favourable Opinion, has been formed with regard to the general utility of the Establishment, even in its present limited State; its ultimate Extension must depend upon the degree of support it may hereafter receive. Judging, however, by the attention their Plans have already experienced, they indulge a confident Expectation that the Taste and Liberality of the Public will enable them to accomplish the full extent of their Designs.

Plan of Donations towards the Erection of an Academy of Arts in Birmingham.

A Donor of Five Guineas to have personal admission to the Annual Exhibition.

A Donor of Ten Guineas to have personal admission, and the liberty of bringing *one* friend each Day.

A Donor of Fifteen Guineas to have personal admission, and the Liberty of bringing *two* Friends each Day; and so on to any Amount of Donations.

The Donations will not be called for until the amount required is subscribed.

The Birmingham Philosophical Society was founded in the year 1800. "This institution is indebted for its origin to a few scientific inhabitants who held a meeting in the year 1800, and having disclosed their ideas to others, they afterwards formed themselves into a society, who having engaged premises and procured proper apparatus, devoted a considerable portion of their time to experimental philosophy, occasionally delivering lectures among their own members. This being carried on as a private society for several years, continually increasing in numbers, they in the year 1813 purchased commodious premises in Cannon-street, which they fitted up in a similar manner to the Royal Institution in London, and is now become a most valuable establishment. The various lectures that have been delivered by the different fellows of this society, on mechanism, chemistry, mineralogy, and metallurgy, have produced very beneficial effects, and contributed in a considerable degree to the improvement of gilding, plating, bronzing, vitrification, and metallic combinations." * In Drake's "Picture of Birmingham," published in 1825, there is the following account of this very useful institution :—

"The society," he says, "assembled in an obscure apartment, and the members read lectures on scientific subjects to small and select audiences ; but, increasing in numbers, the premises now occupied were purchased in 1813, and fitted up in a convenient manner. They contain a small but elegant theatre, for the delivering of lectures ; a museum ; rooms for the pursuit of experimental philosophy, with extensive apparatus ; a news-room, and proper apartments for the conservator of the place. There is generally a course of lectures on a given subject delivered each winter, by a professor engaged for the purpose ; which are succeeded by detached lectures, read by the fellows of the institution. The attendance is usually numerous and rather brilliant." †

The announcement of the first lecture in the new building appeared October 10, 1814 :—

BIRMINGHAM PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTION.

The first Lecture of this Institution will be given at the Rooms, in Cannon Street, on Monday evening, Oct. 17. Subscribers are requested to send to the Institution for their Tickets previous to that day ; they are now ready for delivery on payment of the Subscription.

* "Modern Birmingham."—By Charles Pye, 1818.—pp. 37-8.

† "The Picture of Birmingham."—James Drake, 1825.—p. 36.

On October 26, we have the following description of the new building :—

On Monday last the new rooms fitted up by the Philosophical Society instituted in this town were opened, and the Lectures commenced for the season. The building thus occupied is the very extensive house and premises in Cannon Street, lately the warehouse of Messrs. Richards, Marinden and Co., the lease of which having been purchased by the Committee, they have expended a very considerable sum in adapting it to their purpose ; and their exertions have not been in vain, for by the alterations they have made, it is now, perhaps, the first establishment of the kind out of the metropolis for elegance, accommodation, and convenience. The Lecture-room, which is spacious, and capable of seating upwards of two hundred persons, is semicircular, with raised tiers of benches; the ceiling is supported by two light cast iron pillars. The Lecturer stands in the arena, with a large table before him, for the exhibition of experiments ; behind him is a recess, with doors leading to retiring rooms, &c. Besides the Lecturing-room, there are apartments devoted to an extensive philosophical apparatus for the use of the Fellows. Another room is set apart for a museum, and a third for a reading room and library. Attached to the building are conveniences and requisites for the prosecution of chemical and other philosophical pursuits, upon an extensive scale. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the Committee, by whose exertions the Society has been so well accommodated, and the literary character of the town advanced.

The Rev. John Corrie (President of the Institution) was chosen to deliver the opening Lecture, which, at the request of the Committee, was devoted to a survey of the rise and progress of the Society, and an illustration of the objects of and the advantages likely to result from their labours. He commenced by a warm eulogium on the gentleman under whose fostering care the institution had attained its present flourishing state. He then took occasion to point out the difference of intention between the Royal Society of England and the other great Societies of Europe, and the class of institutions under which the Birmingham Philosophical Society falls. Among the members of the former, he observed, who comprised the most learned and illustrious among mankind, were men who devoted their whole lives to the promotion of fresh discoveries, and farther advances in sciences ; while the members of the latter, being generally those whose principal attention was directed to the necessary pursuits of commerce, attempted the dissemination rather than the discoveries of science. He pointed out the principal topics which would probably engage the attention of the Society, viz., Natural Philosophy, Moral Philosophy, Political Economy, and the subject of Taste.

The Lecturer then descanted upon the advantages arising from their prosecution of these studies to society at large, and this town in particular, and defended the experiments of the studious, however trifling and useless they might appear to the vulgar eye, from the charge of absurdity and folly. No man, he said, ought to despair of adding to the stock of human knowledge, since some of the most important discoveries had been made accidently, and even at a time when the discoverer was making experiments with far other views than what their result led to. Thus he instanced the accidental discovery of gunpowder by the chemical experiments of a Monk, who probably was striving to make his fortune by the discovery of the philosopher's stone, or whose studies, at any rate, had an object far remote from effecting a change in the art of war. The invention of the compass was

another singular instance of the fortuitous result of scientific pursuits, and to which we are indebted for those valuable certainties that at once extended the science of navigation, to which Great Britain is indebted for her present elevation among the nations of Europe. He forcibly demonstrated the close connection between the most abstruse branches of learning and the arts and wants of life. Archimedes, by his knowledge of the mathematics, which he applied to mechanics, defended his native city of Syracuse for a long time from the attacks of the Romans, then the complete masters of the art of war. From the study of conic sections, on the hyperbolic curve, the most exact computations of life annuities are delivered; and upon the knowledge of the properties of the parabolic curve the science of gunnery is founded. From these and other instances he inferred that no person in the pursuit of the sciences should despair of making fresh discoveries; and secondly, that it was wrong to ridicule anyone's pursuits after knowledge, should the immediate object appear ever so trifling

The Lecturer then adverted to the sciences of Moral Philosophy and Political Economy, and the necessity and advantage of forming a correct Taste; and concluded a most able Lecture by pointing out in glowing and emphatic language the more important advantages arising from the prosecution of science, by raising the mind of the enquirer from the consideration of effects to that of the first Great Cause, of whose omnipotence and wisdom we are led to form more correct and reverential sentiments by the survey of his works in creation, especially in the elevated walks of Astronomy, and of whose goodness the researches of Natural Philosophy in the objects more immediately under our own notice on the face of the earth, inspire us with more devout and grateful feelings.

Another important addition was made to our educational institutions this year. In a town of such varied industries as Birmingham, many of which afford not unhealthy employment to very young children, day schools alone would not be sufficient to enable us to provide instruction for those at work. Night schools have, therefore, been founded to reach the industrial classes, and have proved very effective in enabling those who desired it to obtain a useful education. The school to which the following advertisement refers has been of great utility in this respect :—

EVENING SCHOOL.

March 4, 1816.—The Committee of the Lancasterian School, in Severn Street, with a view of extending the benefits of this institution to those boys who are employed in workshops and manufactories during the day, have resolved to open an Evening School, for Instruction in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, to be conducted by Mr. T. Baker, Master of the Lancasterian Day School.

The Evening School will be opened upon Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings, from seven to nine o'clock. To commence on Monday, the 11th day of March, 1816. The Terms of Instruction are Three Pence per week for each Boy, to be paid in advance. No Boy can be admitted until he has paid the weekly charge. Every Boy will

WILLIAM HUTTON ESQ. F. S. A. S. ÆT. 81.

be required to attend at Seven o'clock, and to come as clean as he possibly can. No Boy who behaves disorderly, or who does not comply with the established regulations, will be permitted to remain in the School.—By order of the Committee,

P. M. JAMES, Secretary.

The next extract refers to Mr. Eginton, our famous glass-stainer :—

July 8, 1816.—Mr. William Raphel Eginton, of Newhall Street, in this town, had the honour, on Saturday se'nnight, of being introduced to their Royal and Serene Highnesses the Princess Charlotte of Wales and the Prince of Saxe Coburg, who were pleased to express their entire approbation of the Window executed for her Royal Highness, and confirmed his warrant of appointment as Glass-stainer to their establishment.

The following literary announcement will have a special interest for all Birmingham folk :—

July 22, 1816.—This Day is published, in one Vol., 8vo., with a Portrait, price 12*s*., The Life of William Hutton, F.A.S:S., including a particular account of the Riots at Birmingham, in 1791; to which is subjoined, the History of his Family, written by Himself, and published by his Daughter, Catherine Hutton. London: Printed for Baldwin, Cradock, and Joy, Paternoster Row; and sold by Beilby and Knotts, and Samuel Hutton, Birmingham.

In 1817 Mr. James Luckcock published a volume with the following title :—

Moral Culture; attempted in a Series of Lectures, delivered to the Pupils and Teachers of the Old and New Meeting Sunday Schools, in Birmingham; interspersed with a variety of illustrative Anecdotes. To which is added, a concise Narrative of the Origin, Progress, and permanent Success of the Institution, and the Laws and Regulations by which it is at present governed.

A periodical called *The Searcher, a Loyal Political Tract*, was published this year. Mr. Richard Jabet was the printer. It commented upon local events, but its life was of the shortest. Its early decease was not to be regretted.

A private institution which for a long term of years has been exceedingly useful in cultivating a taste for the fine arts was the Exhibition of Messrs. A. Everitt and Son; the ancestors of the present earnest and indefatigable honorary secretary of the Society of Artists. This room was in Union Street, and until 1817 was only occasionally open. In June of that year the proprietors announce that they are preparing to re-open it as a permanent one; and "all pictures, either in oil or water colours," were to be forwarded on or before the 14th.

The Rev. Rann Kennedy published his poem on the Death of the Princess Charlotte this year. It is in good blank verse, and is a glowing tribute to the many virtues of the royal lady whose early death was mourned by the whole nation. The poem will repay reading even now, for Mr. Kennedy was a poet.

§ 4. AMUSEMENTS.

The principal amusements of the inhabitants continued to be the theatre, concerts, panoramas, wax-work, and other exhibitions. The theatrical season was the four summer months, June, July, August, and September; and during that short time Birmingham was visited by nearly all the famous players of the time. Mr. M'Cready, in 1812, was in the last year of his successful and liberal management. It is quite a pleasant thing—and the comparison in this respect with our own days is not at all favourable to the latter—to read the announcements of benefits given under his direction for all the charitable objects and institutions of the time. Benefits for the Fund for the Poor, for the Dispensary, for the proposed Deaf and Dumb Institution, for the Blue Coat School, are frequently met with; and sums varying from £150 to £200 were often realised on these occasions. The General Hospital was a yearly participator in these benefits. They were so generally successful, and the amount thus raised had been so large, that in 1807 the Quarterly Board resolved that a silver cup, of the value of thirty guineas, should be presented to Mr. M'Cready, "as a token of gratitude for his constant and generous attention to the interests of the Charity." This cup is still in the possession of Mr. W. C. Macready, the famous son of the liberal manager.

The season of 1812 was distinguished by the production of a new piece, of which we have the following preliminary whisper :—

THEATRE ROYAL.

July 13, 1812.—Green-room report says The Secret Mine surpasses anything that has been presented on our stage since the house has been erected. The preparations exceed every former expenditure on such occasions. Painters, carpenters, smiths, tailors, &c., &c., are all earnest in their endeavours to accomplish the Manager's design of offering to

the inhabitants of Birmingham and its vicinity a dramatic representation which must astonish and delight all who witness its unequalled splendour, ingenuity, and interest.

Young Macready, or, as the name was then spelled, M'Cready, appeared again this season; and we have this notice of his acting :—

August 24, 1812.—The performances of last week were attended with great applause, though not with great houses. Miss Smith appeared in five of her principal characters with increased admiration from all who witnessed her exertions. Collins's Ode on the Passions she has so completely made her own, that any other person attempting the recital must (compared with her) appear inferior. The play which particularly called forth our praise was Phillips's Distrest Mother, where every part was unexceptionally pourtrayed. Miss Smith, in Hermione, was excellence itself; Andromache had an able representative in Miss Norton; and we have never seen Mr. William M'Cready with more gratification than in Orestes. His dress was picturesquely classical; his appearance altogether brought back departed ages to our imagination; his acting throughout was dignified and impressive; his mad scene was finely conceived; and executed with correctness, judgment, and feeling, that merited the repeated plaudits which accompanied his exit. From the very great satisfaction which this piece afforded, we cannot but lament that the absence of Miss Smith renders the repetition of it hopeless: yet, with his usual industry, the Manager offers this evening a new operatic Drama, called The Virgin of the Sun, in a style of accuracy, splendour, and magnificence that exceeds all former expenditure. By this it appears that, in defiance of thin Houses, he is determined to persevere in his duty as though each endeavour that this, his last effort, cannot fail, or, if it should, that he may conclude the season with the melancholy consolation of having spared neither pains, trouble, or expense to gratify the public taste.

Those who remember the performances of the Gnome Fly will find that he was anticipated in his greatest feat by the Sieur Sanches. On September 21 it is announced that :—

Previous to the Play, Sieur Sanches, the wonderful Antipodean, will go through his astonishing Performances (never attempted by any man but himself) viz., *Walk against the ceiling with his head downward;* and between the Play and Entertainment will show wonderful modulation of the Human Voice! imitating the Notes of various Birds, and performing in Concert the sounds of different Musical Instruments. And will conclude his unparalleled Performance on the Slack Rope!

After which will be presented the new and popular Pantomime of the White Cat; or Harlequin in Fairy Wood. Under the direction of Mr. Lauren (clown).

The principal new Scenery consists of the Fairy Wood and Transformation of the broken Trees. The Exterior of the White Cat's Enchanted Castle. The Dragon, who combats with, and opposes the Entrance of the Prince. The animated Images. The Hobgoblin. Handsome China Shop. Mad Bull! The Equestrian Statue. The Frog. The Fishes and Frying Pan. The whole to conclude in a beautiful resplendent fancy Scene, terminated by a transparent and correct Likeness of the gallant Marquis of Wellington, sent from London expressly for the purpose.

THEATRE ROYAL.

September 28, 1812.—On Thursday evening the Theatre closes for the season with the Play of Columbus, or a World Discovered, and other entertainments, being for the benefit of Mr. M'Cready.

When we reflect what sums of money have been exhausted, what industry and fatigue have been borne, and what anxious care our worthy Manager has displayed through the whole of the season for the gratification of the lovers of the drama; and when we bear in mind, that nearly the whole of these great sacrifices and exertions have passed away without having brought him that remuneration which he had every reason to expect, we hope and trust that the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood will, on the above night, do all that they can this season perform, and by one grand effort fill the house, as a testimony that, although the times are against theatrical amusements, yet the public are disposed to reward a man who has risked so much for the entertainment of the place.

This closed Mr. M'Cready's managerial connection with the town. His successor was the famous R. W. Elliston. The announcement of the change appeared on April 5, 1813:—

THEATRE ROYAL.

The lovers of the drama will be happy to learn that Mr. Elliston has taken the Theatre in this town, which he purposes opening for the season in the course of the ensuing month.

On May 24 the plan of the new manager was published:—

THEATRE ROYAL.

Mr. Elliston has announced his intention of opening the Theatre on Monday next. The Manager has directed the attention of the lovers of the drama to the subject of the Theatre, in a circular letter, addressed to the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, of which the following is a copy:—

"Stratford Place, London, May 20, 1813.—Having taken the Theatre Royal in Birmingham, for a term of years, I beg leave most respectfully to intreat your attention to an outline of the plan I mean to pursue in the approaching season. I purpose to open the theatre for a period of twenty weeks, benefit nights included, on Monday, the 31st of May instant. During this period performers in the highest estimation will occasionally appear. The pieces performed will be carefully selected, and diligently superintended; and it will be my aim to present, as often as circumstances permit, the very best example of the British Drama. To so large and populous a town as Birmingham, with a neighbourhood so crowded with opulence and distinction, a theatrical establishment is obviously necessary, in point of policy, as well as of rational recreation. In such a situation, it might be supposed that a theatre would sustain itself without very earnest solicitations for support. The fact, however, is that, even in this situation, unless a marked degree of protection be extended by those who lead and govern the public taste, the best efforts of the Manager must be enfeebled, and, in the end, defeated. By those, therefore, who may be desirous that Birmingham should have the advantage, as well as credit, of a well-regulated Theatre, I shall be excused, I hope, when I suggest that a most effectual aid might be afforded by causing one evening, at least, in the week to be considered fashionable for theatrical amusements. On this evening, without inconvenience, perhaps, to any

individual, an exception might be held out that the best company, or that a considerable portion of the best company, of Birmingham and its neighbourhood, would be collected at the Theatre. An elegant place of periodical assemblage might be thus established; and the Manager enabled to do justice to his own inclinations, and to satisfy the wish the public are always entitled to entertain, that what is done on a stage at all shall be done well. My intention is, that, in the general course of the season, there shall be three performances in the week, namely, on Monday, on Wednesday, and on Friday. The Monday night will be commonly devoted to Tragedy; on the Wednesday, the performances will be miscellaneous; and on the Friday, some Comedy, or other Drama, of pre-eminent merit, will be represented. If that night were to be distinguished in the manner I have pointed out, all persons coming to the Theatre on the Friday would be assured of beholding an interesting performance, and of being surrounded by those they know, and might be pleased to meet. My own personal efforts on the stage will be humbly offered to your notice for a few nights during the season. During the unavoidable discharge of my duties elsewhere, those who act on my behalf will be urged, both by their own sense of respect and my most earnest injunctions, to show every possible attention to the accommodation, and the inclinations, of all who may honour the Theatre by their presence, or by their encouragement. Anxious as you must, no doubt, be, for the welfare of Birmingham and its neighbourhood, I trust you will pardon this intrusion on a subject so materially connected with its gratification and public character. The chief object of my ambition is to place the theatrical entertainments of Birmingham on a par with those of other great commercial places. In the pursuit of this object, I shall do my utmost to deserve patronage; and, if I gain it, all I can to show that I am grateful for it. I have the honour to be, your most obedient humble servant, ROBERT WILLIAM ELLISTON."

The following advertisement shows what a strong company Mr. Elliston had engaged for his new undertaking:—

THEATRE ROYAL, BIRMINGHAM.

May 31, 1813.—Mr. Elliston respectfully acquaints the Ladies and Gentlemen of Birmingham and its Vicinity, that the Dramatic Amusements for the Season, will commence this present Monday, May 31, with an Occasional Address, written by E. J. Eyre, Esq., which will be spoken by Mr. Bartlett, from the Theatres Royal, Drury Lane, Edinburgh, Liverpool, &c., his first appearance on this stage. After which will be presented the favourite Comedy of

THE SOLDIER'S DAUGHTER.

Frank Heartall, Mr. Bartley; Governor Heartall, Mr. F. Middleton, from the Theatre Royal, Liverpool; Malfort, senr., Mr. Richards, from the Theatres, Derby and Nottingham; Malfort, junr., Mr. Barnard, from the Theatre Royal, Brighton; Timothy Quaint, Mr. Mallinson, from the Theatre Royal, Haymarket; Ferret, Mr. Wilson; Captain Woodly, Mr. Dobbs, from the Theatre Royal, Liverpool; Symon, Mr. Walton; William, Mr. Hollingsworth; The Widow Cheerly, Mrs. Dobbs, (late Miss Wheeldon), from the Theatre Royal, Liverpool; Mrs. Malfort, Mrs. Payne, from the Theatre Royal, Richmond; Mrs. Fidget, Mrs. Grove, from the Theatre Royal, Haymarket; Julia Malfort, Miss Weston; Susan, Mrs. Weston, from the Theatre Royal, Dublin; Mrs. Townley, Mrs. Richard. End of the Play, a variety of Dancing, by Mr. Payne, and Miss Green, from the London Theatres. To conclude with the favorite Farce of

THE MIDNIGHT HOUR.

The Marquis, Mr. Lewis, from the Theatre Royal, Lyceum; the General, Mr. Middleton; Sebastian, Mr. Wilson; Nicholas, Mr. Mallinson; Ambros, Mr. Richards; Mathias, Mr. Walton; Julia, Miss Holland, from the Theatre Royal, Brighton; Cicely, Mrs. Grove; Flora, Mrs. Hatton, from the Theatre Royal, Manchester

With Mr. Elliston's management commenced the custom of considering Friday the fashionable night. The tradition is still powerful enough to induce those "who are nothing if not fashionable," to reserve their visits for this select evening; and is still strong enough to make the Friday's box attendance the largest and best dressed of the week :—

June 14, 1813.—We think our Manager's hint of setting apart Friday as a fashionable night, meets with the approval of our fellow townsmen, as we witnessed on that evening an unusual display of beauty and fashion, who by their cheering approbation of the performers, gave an additional spur to their exertions. We observe that Shakespeare's tragedy of Macbeth is announced for this evening, in which Mr. Bartley and Mrs. Wrench undertake the principal characters, and we have no doubt but they will do them justice. Mr. Coleridge's new tragedy of Remorse, and the new comedy of the Students of Salamanca, and other popular pieces are announced.

The season commenced very successfully; novelty followed novelty in quick succession. First amongst these was the wonderful drama of Aladdin :—

THEATRE ROYAL.

July 12, 1813.—The popular tale of Aladdin; or, the Wonderful Lamp, is handed from the nursery to the amusement of our graver years, and there is such an exquisite mixture of fancy, of character, of the marvellous mixed with the probable, of romance and interest, of the wonderful and sublime, and above all, of magnificent scenery and rapid incidents, that it is not surprising that it should captivate the imagination of every description of persons. The London managers availed themselves of the popularity of the story, and introduced it on their boards this season with an *éclat* unprecedented. "Men are but children of a larger size," says Dryden; and to this spectacle children of all sizes were attracted; nor is it matter of surprise that parents should be anxious for their offspring to witness a representation, where the mind is not only delighted but instructed; where the utmost bounds of fancy are satisfied; and where the moral of the conclusion happily amalgamates, with the magnificence that surrounds it. Our spirited manager, determining not to be outvied by the London proprietors, has taken our senses by assault, and we will venture to say that, in the memory of our oldest inhabitant, no piece has ever been brought upon our boards where the success has been more unqualified, and where the splendour has in any degree been parallel to this. We understand that the dresses and properties alone have cost a thousand guineas; but as this piece will be seen by every play-going person, and parties from the country are already flocking to behold it, we refer to their authority and sensations to confirm the truth of our remark.

Mr. Elliston—reserving we suppose his trump card—did not appear until nearly the middle of the season. We quote the account of his early performances :—

THEATRE ROYAL.

July 19, 1813.—On Monday, Colman's play of the Mountaineers was produced, in which our Manager, Mr. Elliston, made his first appearance, as Octavian—he supported the character with his accustomed excellence. His very successful and spirited representation of the three Singles, on Wednesday, (aided by the comic powers of Messrs. Mallinson and Dobbs) convulsed the house with continued bursts of laughter. On Thursday he took the part of Othello, for the benefit of Mr. Dunn. On Friday, the comedy of The Will was presented: Miss Booth, of Covent Garden, made her *debut* in the character of Albina, which she sustained with very great ability, and drew forth universal applause. Those who witnessed the spirit and vivacity of her performance, and the delicate proportion of her form, will think it almost incredible, that she had played Angela in London on the evening preceding, and, after that exertion, had travelled all night and day, to arrive in Birmingham just in time to dress for Albina. Mr. Elliston personated Howard with all that whim and comic spirit for which he is so peculiarly distinguished; their united attraction drew a crowded and fashionable attendance. Miss Booth takes leave for the present this evening, in Juliet and Little Pickle, two of her most celebrated performances.

Mr. Payne, the American Roscius, who has lately appeared with so much *éclat* at Drury Lane, and whose performances have been received with such enthusiastic applause at Liverpool, is engaged to perform here for two nights only, the first of which will be on Thursday, when he will take the part of Lothair, in Adelgitha. The admirers of that merry son of Thalia, Mathews, will learn with pleasure that he will pay them a short visit next week, on his way to Scotland.

Mr. Elliston was a speech-making manager, and at the close of the season he delighted his audience by one of those managerial efforts which are generally composed partly of thanks, partly of flattery, and partly of business. Here is a specimen of Mr. Elliston's abilities in this line :—

THEATRE ROYAL.

September 6, 1813.—On Friday, a brilliant and overflowing house expressed the public sense of the extraordinary exertions Mr. Elliston has made to render the theatre worthy of their patronage. His favourable character of Manager was supported with that careless gaiety and comic spirit, which at the present day it possesses in no other hands; the airs and graces of Clarinda were exhibited with great elegance and vivacity by Miss Booth, who, anxious to contribute to the amusement of the audience, volunteered to recite Collins's Ode on the Passions, in which she pourtrayed the various grades and transitions of passion, by voice, by countenance and movement, with admirable judgment and most picturesque effect. She retired amidst the most unbounded applause. Mr. Sinclair and Mrs. Bishop, in the grand burletta of Midas, which has been brought forward with great splendour of scenery, exerted their harmonious talents with considerable success. Previous to the commencement of Midas, Mr. Elliston addressed the audience to the following effect :—

"Ladies and Gentlemen, it has been usual to return thanks for the patronage of the Theatre at the latter part of the season, but as imperious circumstances will prevent me from being on the spot at a more advanced period of it, I have selected this evening as the best opportunity of addressing you.

When this Theatre was offered to my notice by its Proprietors, I was induced to pay attention to the application, from a conviction that a town possessing an extensive population, abounding with minds whose talent and ingenuity are proverbial, and surrounded by an independent neighbourhood, must possess both the inclination and the power to support the Drama. With this persuasion, I entered upon my office with that alacrity which was due to the situation I had undertaken, determined to make those efforts for your amusement that should screen me from censure, if they did not ensure me success. I took the liberty to propose for your consideration certain points, which I thought intimately connected with the prosperity of your stage, and if in some of my suggestions I have not been enabled to adhere to the line of conduct I had prescribed for myself, your kindness will supply an excuse in the difficulties I have encountered from the short vacation of the Metropolitan Winter Theatres; and I flatter myself, you will give me credit for unremitting exertions.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I feel greatly obliged to you for the readiness with which you adopted my idea of making one performance in the week a fashionable night, which in itself created an interest most desirable for my object.

That object, Ladies and Gentlemen, was to produce the greatest variety consistently with the decorum and taste that ought to prevade a regular stage, and in these particulars I took no London Theatre for my model, but have proceeded on a plain, unobtrusive scale, where the merits of the plan might gradually unfold itself without the quackery of mere pretension. This scheme has succeeded beyond my hopes, but their is a debt due to you for the success, and I stand here to acknowledge myself your debtor.

Here, Ladies and Gentlemen, I ought to pause; because in the proportion that your kindness has exceeded my most sanguine expectations, do I find a correspondent difficulty in acknowledging it. There will, however, be a small return of gratitude in the anticipation of my future efforts, and I offer you in that antcipation a heart and mind devoted to the interests of the drama; the remainder of the season will present to you novelities and performers of the best fame; and I am authorised in holding out a distant probability, that, previous to the opening of next season, some alterations in the decorative and mechanical parts of this Theatre may render it what it ought to be, second to none in the United Kingdom.

The performers, Ladies and Gentlemen, who have occasionally visited us, have been delighted with their reception; permit me to add, that the Acting Manager, Mr. Bartley, to whom I am greatly indebted, and the Company in general, are no less sensible of your liberality; and with the expression of a fervent desire that the trade and prosperity of Birmingham may go hand in hand with its expansion of intellect, and its patronage of the arts, I most respectfully tender you my sincere acknowledgments for the honours and favours you have conferred upon me."

Mr. E. was frequently interrupted during the delivery of this address, by loud cheers and plaudits from every part of the house.

The Theatre did not close until November, and before its termination Mrs. Jordan and Madame Catalani paid us a visit; and the manager produced a pantomine called "The Witch and the Wizard; or Harlequin in Birmingham."

James Dobbs, the comedian, was a Birmingham man, and was a great favourite here. In 1802 he published a small pamphlet of verse, which is very poor indeed. He was then very young, and so were his writings. He afterwards wrote comic songs, which he used to sing on the stage himself; and which, though utterly worthless, were very popular at the time. He also wrote a farce called "Peeping Tom of Coventry;" but it was never acted, and we venture to predict that it never will be. One of his songs, "I can't find Brummagem," is quoted in another part of this work for the sake of its local allusions. In 1813 he and his wife were part of a regular company, and they thus announce their joint benefit. It is curious to note one of the customs expected of a *beneficiaire* at this time:—

Sep. 13, 1813.—Mr. and Mrs. DOBBS most respectfully beg leave to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of Birmingham and their friends in general that their benefit is fixed for Friday next, September 17. Mrs. Dobbs feels it incumbent upon her to express her great regret that her state of health has prevented her for some weeks from attending to her professional avocations, *and is still more grieved that it will be impossible for her to have the honour of paying her personal respects to those Friends who may patronise her on this occasion;* but, encouraged by the manner in which her humble efforts to please were received at the commencement of the season, she ventures to flatter herself that her absence will be excused, and hopes to prove by her strenuous exertions (when her health may permit her to resume her situation) that she is not unmindful of the very generous approbation she has received from the Birmingham audience.

Madame Tussaud paid us a visit this year, as we learn by the following little notice:—

WAX WORK.

Nov. 29, 1813.—We have no hesitation in warmly recommending to our readers a visit to Madame Tussaud's admirable collection, now exhibiting at the Shakespear Tavern, in this town, which has never failed to produce the most lively encomiums from innumerable visitors in the first cities and towns of the British empire.

The theatrical season for 1814 commenced under very favourable auspices. As will be seen from the next extract, "calls" are not a modern innovation:—

THEATRE ROYAL.

May 13, 1814.—Expectation, which has been on tiptoe to witness the opening of this edifice, in which alterations and embellishments were declared to be executing under Artists of the first denomination, has been amply gratified. In the audience part of the theatre, it is certainly "second to none in the kingdom," whether we refer to the classical effect of the designs, the magnificence of the proscenium, the convenience for sight, or the incomparable construction of the theatre for hearing. The chandeliers are all new; those on the stage exceed in brilliancy anything we have ever beheld in a similar situation: and the chaste, unobtrusive effect of the whole, will command the admiration of every patron of the drama. In brief, "the word of promise" has not been "kept to the ear and broken to the hope." The whole exceeds our most sanguine wishes; may its success be commensurate with the expenditure which both the proprietors and the manager must have incurred. We intended to detail the various new features which so forcibly struck us in their combination; but it was impossible, on a first impression, to gain sufficient knowledge of the work to particularise with precision. One mark of respect we ought to notice as a noble instance of attention and proper liberal feeling on the part of the audience:—at the commencement of the play, before they would suffer it to proceed, Mr. Elliston was loudly called for, and on his entrance accompanied by the acting manager, Mr. Bartley, and the principal performers, the whole auditory stood up, and with repeated huzzas, and other tokens of approbation, greeted their appearance.

During the season Mrs. Jordan and Miss S. Booth, Mr. Elliston, Mr. Munden, Mr. Mathews, and Mr. Kean, appeared and delighted the Birmingham play-goers with their marvellous histrionic powers. Of Mr. Kean's performances we quote the following notice:—

THEATRE ROYAL, BIRMINGHAM.

September 19, 1814.—MR. KEAN'S PERFORMANCES.—The arrival of this gentleman in Birmingham has occasioned a very eager curiosity, and all the real and well-skilled lovers of the drama have shewn an impatience to witness his efforts, which has increased on every repetition. The astonishing effects and attractions of this performer in London have borne his fame before him to all parts of England, and we naturally anticipated from the metropolitan stamp a genius of no common sort. Judging, however, from an observation which has been at least attentive, if not accurate, it appears evidently conspicuous that he is a most extraordinary actor; his representation of passion is not descriptive but imitative; the silent, yet forcible attacks he makes on the hearts and feelings of his auditors are irresistable, and we are involuntarily hurried into a sympathy with the character before us. With Mr. Kean the character is never seen to be well exhibited, as in many eminent performers, but is the character itself, and we forget the actor in our pity, fear, disgust or horror of the individual represented. The page of nature has occupied Mr. Kean's attention, and he has read volumes with a facility of attention and exertion which ordinary minds must vainly hope to attain, and which mere study, perhaps, will never accomplish. His eye, his lip, unequalled in expression, his every limb and his every fibre seem to act in unison with the passion, and to unite in promoting one prodigious whole. He must be seen to be truly appreciated; and if a few sceptics should be slow in belief, the effulgence of such a star must be shortly universally acknowledged.

Our friend, Mr. Dobbs, again claims our notice; but this time, curiously enough, as an inventor as well as an actor. On October 3, 1814, we read :—

Mr. Dobbs (late of our Theatre) has just obtained his Majesty's Letters Patent for a Machine for reaping corn. We are informed by a gentleman who has seen it work, that it is a most valuable invention, and is equally adapted for Indian corn, rice, and cutting of sugar canes.

In the week following this notice appears :—

October 10, 1814.—For the Benefit of Mrs. Dobbs. J. Dobbs most respectfully informs his Friends and the Public, that having invented a Machine to expedite the Reaping of Corn, &c., but having been unable to obtain the Patent till too late to give it a General Inspection in the Field with safety, he is induced to take advantage of his Theatrical Profession, and make it known to his Friends, who have been anxious to see it, through that Medium.

Part of the Stage will be planted with Wheat, &c., that the Machine has cut and gathered where it grew, and the Machine worked exactly as in the field.

Any Invention that will enable the Farmer to gather his Grain quicker and cleaner than the old method (in our climate so uncertain) must be a national advantage of no small consideration; that the Machine in question possesses that advantage will, perhaps, be better decided by its own merits, than anything its Inventor could say in its favour.

. . . . . .

The performances are to conclude with the celebrated Farce of Fortune's Frolic. The part of Robin Roughhead by Mr. Dobbs, in which he will Work the Machine in Character, in an Artificial Field of Wheat, planted as near as possible in the Manner it Grows.

Here is the report of the experiment :—

October 17, 1814.—Mr. Dobbs's newly-invented Patent Reaping Machine was shown at our Theatre on Friday evening, and appeared to be highly approved of. Mr. D's. first experiment was completely successful, and we have no doubt the other would have been equally so, had not the scenery obstructed the progress of the Machine, which causing a little embarrassment, prevented Mr. Dobbs from working it so effectually as he could have wished. Mr. D's. explanation of the principles and properties of this invention was very satisfactory, and we are inclined to think it will prove of great public utility.

The Theatre was opened for a short time on December 12, 1814, when we are informed "Mr. Mathews, who has been prevented by his late serious accident from appearing on our boards at an earlier period of the season, will this evening introduce an entertainment prepared by himself, called Mail Coach Adventures, in the course of which he will sing most of his popular songs." The following important announcement is also made:—"Large Fires kept in the Lobbies Day and Night."

The most extraordinary event of this season was undoubtedly the appearance of that eccentric gentleman Romeo Coates. Such an exhibition has rarely been witnessed on any stage as the following passage records :—

ROMEO COATES IN BIRMINGHAM.

In the Month of September, 1814, this singular individual, or as he was called in the prints of the day, "this celebrated amateur of fashion," appeared in his favourite character of Romeo, on the boards of the Birmingham Theatre. Captain Gronow, in his Reminiscences, describes him as "a person of fifty, somewhat gentlemanlike, but so different from the usual men of the day, that considerable attention was directed to him." He attended the Bath assemblies, and from the gaudy appearance of dress—his buttons and buckles being of diamonds—great curiosity was excited to know who the stranger was. Nor was this curiosity lessened by the announcement that he would appear in the character of Romeo, as his eccentric manner indicated that comedy rather than tragedy would be most congenial to him. He appeared at the Bath and London Theatres, and frequently in the character of Romeo. "His dress," Gronow says, "was like nothing ever worn. In a cloak of sky blue silk profusely spangled, red pantaloons, a vest of white muslin, surmounted by an enormously thick cravat, and a wig *à la* Charles the Second, capped by an opera hat, he presented one of the most grotesque spectacles ever witnessed upon the stage. The dying scene was irresistibly comic. He dragged the unfortunate Juliet from the tomb much in the same manner as a washerwoman thrusts into her cart the bag of foul linen. But how shall I describe his death? Out came a dirty silk handkerchief from his pocket with which he carefully swept the ground; then his opera hat was carefully laid for a pillow, and down he laid himself; after various tossings about, he seemed reconciled to his position, but the house vociferously bawled out, 'Die again, Romeo.' and obedient to the command, he rose up, and, to the amusement of the audience, went through the ceremony again; and so well pleased was the amateur with his performance that he was evidently prepared to enact the death scene a third time." A paper of the date, September 1814, giving an account of his appearance on another occasion, states, that "On Wednesday se'ennight, he performed at Birmingham in his usual classical style, the part of the gallant, gay Lothario. The house was crowded, and the amateur was received with every attention. No horrid discords grated upon his ear when he entered—no crowing of cocks or hideous cat-calls disturbed his aspiring spirit; but one unbounded peal of applause marked his entrance, and the three angular bows with which he returned the compliment were received with 'Bravo! bravo!' The performance proceeded amidst acclamations, occasioned by the singular attitudes and emphasis of the amateur; the other performers participating in the general mirth, added to the risibility of the audience, who were so much pleased by his dying, that a general *encore* produced an entire new scene not intended by the author—this was a negociation before the audience, between the *dead man*, the manager, and the characters on the stage, all requesting him to indulge the audience, and to which he consented. The manager accordingly announced that he would repeat the dying scene; but after waiting till the patience of the audience was exhausted, the last act commenced amid uproar, and was performed entirely in dumb show. The manager then came forward and said, that as the *dead man* had not spoken quite plainly they had misunderstood him, and that Mr. Coates would speak the address which he had intended to deliver before the

Prince Regent and the Emperor of Russia, but which he was prevented from doing, by their not giving him an opportunity. To this the audience assented—the curtain drew up, the band played 'See, the Conquering Hero Comes,' and in marched the amateur in regimentals. The storm was hushed, but scarcely had a couplet proceeded from his lips, than an unlucky wight in the gallery called out, 'Sing it.' The blood of the amateur was up; he took off his hat, and showed as much contempt as the nature of his face would admit of. He said he 'would be d——d if he spoke any more;' he ran off the stage to the regret of the whole house, and all the rhetoric of the manager was exerted in vain to induce him to return. The after piece passed in dumb show, and thus ended the mighty history."

The season of 1815 was marked by the appearance of Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. C. Kemble, Mr. Braham, Mr. Emery, and others not unknown to fame. Birmingham has added many famous names to the history of the stage; but we anticipate few lovers of the drama know much about Richard Jones. He was however a "Birmingham Blade," and the contemporary *Gazette* thus descants upon him :—

THEATRE ROYAL.

May 15, 1815.—We feel particularly happy that we have it in our power to record the complete success of our fellow townsman, Mr. RICHARD JONES, in every character he has assumed. We may justly style him (to adopt the language of the excellent address which he so admirably delivered of Colman's) a truly BRIGHT and HIGH-METTLED BIRMINGHAM BLADE; for the *London Polish* instead of detracting from the *sterling value* of his native *ore*, has rather added a degree of taste and refinement to the original *mass*, that renders him unrivalled in the line of acting he pursues, and *stamps* him the legitimate successor of that BLAZING LUMINARY in the theatrical hemisphere, the late inimitable Mr. Lewis. By the indefatigable exertions of our judicious acting manager, Mr. Brunton, we have already been gratified with a new melo-drame, of the most interesting description, in which his amiable daughter made her first curtsey to a Birmingham audience, and received that heart-cheering encouragement her dawning abilities so justly entitle her to. Our old favourites, Mallinson, Fitzwilliam, Mr. and Mrs. Hall, &c., were rapturously applauded, and the *recruits* of our *corps dramatique* seem to bid fair, by the excellence and versatility of their talents, to insure a most pleasant and, we trust, prosperous campaign. Report says the new Pantomime in rehearsal for the approaching fair, is of a *nouvelle* description.

One of the novelties of the season was a "speaking pantomime" :—

May 15, 1815.—On Thursday will be produced the entire new speaking Pantomime of Broad Grins; or, Harlequin Mag and Harlequin Fag: which will be brought forward with splendid new Scenery, Machinery, Decorations, Changes, &c. Clown by the celebrated YOUNG JONES.

May 29, 1815.—The exertions of our Acting Manager appear to be unabating; he has already produced a *nouvelle* Entertainment in the shape of a *speaking* Pantomime. It

would seem to be founded upon local circumstances, as most of the jests and tricks have an allusion to popular incidents. The manager very properly deeming "brevity to be the soul of wit," has, since its first representation, assisted its attraction by a judicious curtailment, and it is now become a popular entertainment.

The next advertisement is the first in which we have met the name of Mr. Ryan, the once famous rope-dancer and equestrian. Few men of this profession are better known to Birmingham than Mr. Ryan. For many years he was a regular caterer for their amusement, and he erected a permanent circus in Bradford-street; the building now converted into the Circus Chapel* :—

NEW EQUESTRIAN CIRCUS ON THE MOAT, BIRMINGHAM.

May 15, 1815.—During the Fair. On Thursday next, May 18, 1815, the Public are respectfully informed that Messrs. Adams's celebrated Equestrian Troop and Stud of Horses will go through their surprising Feats of Activity, consisting of Horsemanship in all its branches; Tight-rope Dancing, by Mr. Ryan, the young Hibernian, indisputably the first Rope Dancer in the world of his age . . . Equilibrium on the Slack Wire, by the Child of Promise, only six years of age. . . . . The Whole to conclude with the Extravaganza of The Election, or Billy Button's Journey to and from London to Brentford.

Our last extract for 1815 is one containing some common-sense observations in reference to the stage, which have not yet lost their relevancy :—

THE STAGE.

September 25, 1815.—It is a painful reflection, that while the stage is considered as the vehicle of improvement, instruction, and amusement, its professors are so seldom rewarded. Miss Macauley incurred on her benefit night an expense of near £70. The receipts of the house were 48*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* The general habits of society, and the delicacy of the female character, precludes the possibility of their forming acquaintance, and creating that extensive interest which it is in the power of men to do; yet that very helplessness, which ought to excite *public* interest, is the principal motive of *public* neglect. "She is a stranger here," is the usual outcry when a female performer's night fails of success; but surely this argument is very illiberal; the term STRANGER should be a passport to the heart; should awaken sympathy, and excite regard. The fluctuating state of provincial theatricals, and the desire of the public for constant novelty, render a succession of new performers requisite to the interest of the manager. The salaries of provincial actors can only be considered as equivalent to their regular expenditure; it is their benefits they must look forward to as the remuneration of their labours, and for the supply of those numerous *extra* expenses, which does not attach to any other class of persons. If this reward be withheld, where is the stimulus to exertion? The farmer looks forward to

* Mr. Ryan suffered great reverses of fortune. He is still alive (1868) but in extreme poverty. Several attempts have been made to give him a benefit at one of the theatres; but for some reason or other they have all failed.

his harvest as the means of compensating for the losses of the past year, and preparing for the contingencies of the next; but it must with ACTORS be perpetual *Winter*, if the *Spring* of Hope, and the *Summer* of Encouragement never lead on to the *Autumn* of Reward; genius must perish, and industry fade, where the mind is depressed by disappointment and neglect—where a youth of penury only points out the prospect of an age of affliction. The benefit of a performer ought not to be considered as a charity, but as a reward for exertion. Their youth, health, strength, and spirits are prematurely wasted; it is their duty to exert themselves in that station to which accident, inclination, or necessity has led them; but the compact should be mutual; those lives which are devoted to *public* amusement, *should* be entitled to *public* reward. This subject is extensive, but the limits of a newspaper will not admit of its being prolonged. Miss Macauley proposes, at the close of the theatre (if a sufficient number of subscribers can be obtained for that purpose) of giving public Readings, interspersed with Recitations and Singing. The very flattering approbation bestowed upon this species of entertainment, as given by Miss Macauley in the north of England, and in Ireland, justifies her in the undertaking; and her recent loss, after five months' exertion in the public cause, will, it is hoped, be a sufficient recommendation to that spirit of liberality which does honour to itself, while it confers a favour on the person obliged.

Subscribers' names will be received by Miss Macauley, at Mr. Campbell's Petrefaction Warehouse, New Street; and at Aris's Gazette Office, High Street.

In 1816 Mr. Haddock was here with his famous Mechanic Theatre, and Ingleby, the conjurer, delighted the Birmingham people with his sleight of hand. The Musical Glasses and Philosophical Fireworks attracted audiences to a then fashionable place of amusement :—

May 20, 1816.—Morning and Evening Amusements, Stork Tavern, in the Square, Birmingham.—Cartwright's Performance on his Harmonic Glasses, and Exhibition of PHILOSOPHICAL FIREWORKS (by particular desire) this present Monday.

When the theatre opened for the season renewed attention was paid to the novel introduction of a fashionable night. In a volume of Birmingham play-bills for this year, presented to me by Mr. Akers E. Edwards, the announcements for Friday nights are always under such distinguished patronage as the "High and Low Bailiffs, Churchwardens, Constables, and the principal gentlemen of Birmingham and its vicinity." The first fashionable night for 1816 was Friday, June 21, and the patron was W. W. Capper, Esq., the High Bailiff. According to the following paragraph it was successful :—

THEATRE ROYAL.

June 24, 1816.—The plan of a fashionable night, commenced under such happy auspices and with such liberal patronage, will, we deem it probable, be followed up by a succession of influence highly complimentary to our manager, and essentially necessary to

the interests of the theatre. The name of the High Bailiff was admirably adapted to sanction the idea; and if the ladies will condescend to lend their aid to the cause, the success is certain. A crowded box-list is confidently expected for Friday, when all the first families of talent or consequence are likely to meet.

On the 28th it was under the patronage of the Ladies of Birmingham, and the fine comedy of John Bull was played, with the manager, Mr. Elliston, as Job Thornberry. If the lady patrons selected this play it was creditable to their dramatic taste. Among the patrons for the fashionable nights of this season we have the Officers of the 15th or King's Royal Hussars; Henry Greswold Lewis, Esq., "of Malvern Hall;" Mr. Richard Pratchett; John Taylor, Esq., "of Moseley Hall;" Heneage Legge, Esq., "of Aston Hall;" the gentlemen of Birmingham; and the Wardens of the Proof-house. The great singer, Incledon, was here for one night only. Some new plays were introduced which are now almost unknown to the stage. We have a brief description of one of these melo-dramas, which will be read with pleasure by modern play-goers :—

NEW MELO DRAME.

Sept. 2, 1816.—A New Melo Drame, entitled "The Poison'd Amulet; or, Magdalena and her Faithful Dog," is announced for representation on Wednesday. We have been favoured with a short account of its fable:—Magdalena, an orphan heiress, is left to the guardianship of her uncle, Lord Leolin; but Margarett, Leolin's wife, lays a plan for her destruction, in order to place her son Lodobert (who is the next heir) in Magdalena's possessions. For that purpose she endeavours to win over her husband to assist in her plan of aggrandisement; but firm to the vow he had made to protect Magdalena's orphan state, rejects, with horror, her proposition, in consequence of which Margarett is resolved to rid herself of this double obstacle, and for that purpose has Leolin murdered by poisoning an amulet presented him by Magdalena, accuses Magdalena of the murder, and procures her banishment to a desolate island, with provisions for twenty days. Magdalena is conveyed to the island, and, in compliance with her request, her *Dog* is allowed to accompany her. *Twenty* days *elapsed*, her provisions are exhausted, she is on the point of expiring for want, when by a Providental interference in her behalf the Dog becomes the *instrument* of her *deliverance*. The limits of our paper will not admit of our entering into every particular; it is sufficient to say that he appears in the most interesting situations, and no doubt will excite considerable feeling in the breasts of the auditors. As it is said to be written by a gentleman in Birmingham, much curiosity will naturally be excited to learn who the Author is; however, as he is to speak an occasional address, it will soon be gratified. We wish Mr. Roberts, for whose benefit it is announced, every success, particularly as he is a worthy individual with a *large* Family and *slender* Income, which is a consideration, we are sure, that never loses its weight with a *Birmingham Audience*, who are ever ready to do good.

Our two famous gardens were still attractive to amusement-seekers. I quote an advertisement of each :—

VAUXHALL GARDENS.

June 24, 1816.—Fireworks, superior in Brilliancy and Variety to any ever before exhibited, will be produced by the *Pyrotechnical Amateurs* of Birmingham.

The Public are respectfully informed, that the above Collection has been made at the particular request of a great Number of Gentlemen who have seen Specimens of the Pyrotechnical Talents of the Amateurs ; it is incontestibly the largest and most numerous, and, it is presumed, will be the most splendid ever displayed in these Gardens.

July 22.—Pyrotechnical Amateurs.

August 5.—In honour of the Birthday of his R.H. the Prince Regent, and by the particular desire of many Gentlemen of the Town, the Pyrotechnical Amateurs will present at Vauxhall, &c., &c.

SPRING GARDENS.

August 5, 1816.—FIRE WORKS.—Brilliant Illumination, and a large and beautiful Transparency, representing the Soho Manufactory, as it appeared at the Time of Peace with France, with several additional Pieces.

A young lady of Birmingham made her *debut* at the theatre this season, and we have the following brief tribute to "native talent :"—

TRAGEDY OF ALFONSO.

September 9, 1816.—On Friday night, Miss J. Whitaker, a young lady of this town, made her *debut* in the arduous character of *Amelrosa*, in Mr. Lewis's tragedy of Alfonso. Her reception was highly flattering, and her performance throughout was rapturously applauded. When we see a young female on her first appearance labouring under excessive timidity, and yet at the same time giving proof of real abilities by occasional flashes of genius, we think we may venture to foretell that a further acquaintance with the stage will raise her high in the estimation of the public, particularly as she possesses an excellent figure and an expressive countenance. We were forcibly struck with the manner in which she implored forgiveness from her father ; and, when in answer to her entreaties, he says, "'Twere weakness," &c., her reply, "If to forgive were sin, how deeply then must heaven have sinned to man!" was one of the finest specimens of sentimental delivery we ever heard. We understand that this difficult character was undertaken at a very short notice ; we are, therefore, glad to find that a very general wish has been expressed to witness a repetition of the performance.

The great theatrical event of this season was the appearance of the celebrated Miss O'Neil. We, of this degenerate age, hear our fathers talk with ecstacy of the golden age of Siddons, Kemble, O'Neil, and Kean. The following history of the visit of Miss O'Neil fully reveals the enthusiasm with which her coming was welcomed. The "great actress" was to have appeared on October 2, but at five o'clock on that day the following bill of apology was issued :—

THEATRE ROYAL, BIRMINGHAM.

Wednesday, 4 o'clock, October 2, 1816.

It is with Feelings of the most anxious and distressed kind, that Mr. Elliston has to announce that he has, by this Day's Post, received the following Letter from Mr. Barlow, Agent of the Proprietors of Covent Garden Theatre :—

Manchester, October 1, 1816.

Sir,—I arrived here this Morning in consequence of Mr. Harris being informed that Miss O'NEIL was to perform several Nights at Birmingham after the Period of her Leave of Absence had expired. Miss O'Neil made her Engagement under a Mistake that she should not be wanted in London, but Mr. Harris requiring her immediate Attendance, he has promised to admit of her completing any Promise she made in a few Weeks.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

EDWARD BARLOW.

This vexatious Disappointment was entirely unforeseen, and out of the Power of Industry or Caution to prevent. At the Conclusion of the Engagement, upon Miss O'Neil's own Terms, "*six Hundred Guineas for the six Nights*," Mr. Elliston made all the necessary Preparation to give due Publicity to Miss O'Neil's Appearance by every means properly within his Reach, both in the London and Provincial Newspapers, and Posting Bills have been sent to all the Towns within 30 Miles.

The Post of Yesterday brought a Letter from Mr. O'Neil, CONFIRMING a Second Time the Engagement of Miss O'Neil, and at the same Time informing Mr. Elliston that Miss O'Neil would not be able to reach Birmingham until "One o'Clock" on the Thursday; the same Post bringing also a Letter from Mr. Harris, asserting that Miss O'Neil's Services were indispensable at Covent Garden Theatre on *Thursday* Evening.

In this Dilemma—where the Faith of Mr. O'Neil, after a long Correspondence, was twice pledged—against the Veto of the principal Proprietor of Covent Garden Theatre—Mr. Elliston was puzzled as to the Line of Conduct he ought to adopt. He deemed the only prudent Course would be a Consultation with a few confidential Friends, by whose Advice he has awaited the Arrival of the Manchester Mail this Day; the Result has been the Receipt of the Letter, a Copy of which is issued to the Public.

Mr. Elliston has no Alternative, in the Case of Miss O'Neil's Non-Arrival, but to CLOSE THE DOORS of the Theatre. He humbly and respectfully hopes that this plain Statement of Facts (the Correspondence upon which may be seen at the Box Office) will create some Sympathy for this, to him, most mortifying and cruel Disappointment. He has waited only one Hour to issue this Notice, and has set off to London, to place his Situation before the Proprietors of Covent Garden Theatre, in the Hope of prevailing with them that she shall commence her Engagement on Monday next.

He has only further to state, that Miss O'Neil's Box of Clothes is on the Spot, that a Letter has been addressed to her here from London, and that she is advertised to perform at Shrewsbury this Evening, on her Way from Manchester to Birmingham.

On Saturday, October 5, a boldly printed hand-bill was published, of which the following is a copy :—

By permission of the Proprietors of Covent Garden Theatre.

MISS O'NEIL

Is Arrived in Birmingham, and will commence her Engagement on

Monday next, October 17th, in the part of

JULIET.

The part of ROMEO by MR. CONWAY.

With the Farce of

THE DEAF LOVER.

Captain Meadows . . . . . MR. ELLISTON.

Miss O'Neil's other Nights will be announced in future Bills.

On Monday the *Gazette* published the following version of this theatrical event :—

MISS O'NEIL.

October 7th, 1816.—We feel gratified in announcing to our readers that Mr. Elliston has effectually surmounted the difficulties which threatened to prevent the appearance of Miss O'Neil upon our boards. It is pretty generally know that early on Thursday morning last, the day on which Miss O. N. was announced to appear, printed notices were issued by Mr. Elliston to the public, declaring his apprehension that, from the interference of the Covent Garden Proprietors, this lady would be prevented from fulfilling the engagement contracted with him. This apprehension originated from his having received a communication from Mr. Harris, on the Tuesday, stating that Miss O'Neil could not be allowed to continue longer from town, her services being indispensable there, and informing him that he had despatched a special messenger to meet her at Manchester. This letter was followed the succeeding day (Wednesday) by another from the agent (Mr. Barlow), who had reached Manchester, to the same purport; added to this, her appearance at Covent Garden Theatre on the Thursday evening was positively announced in the London prints. Anxious to prevent the disappointment which would have arisen had Miss O'Neil's engagement been completely cancelled, and not again hearing from that lady subsequently to the receipt of Mr. Harris's letter, Mr. Elliston, immediately upon the arrival of Mr. Barlow's communication, set off by mail to town, hoping he should be able to prevail upon Mr. Harris to consent to her return this week, should she, in compliance with his requisition, have already reached London. Miss O'Neil imagining from her interview with Mr. Barlow, that her immediate attendance was absolutely necessary in town, left Manchester with the intention of performing here *one night*, and concluding her engagement at some future period. She accordingly arrived in Birmingham early in the afternoon of Thursday for that purpose, but finding Mr. Elliston absent, and the notice too short to give publicity for that evening, she immediately followed to town. Upon her arrival there, finding that Mr. Elliston had succeeded in his application to Mr. Harris, she instantly left London, and travelling all night, reached Birmingham again early on Saturday morning, determined if necessary to perform that evening. In justice to Miss O'Neil it should be remarked, that, instead of "having used her utmost endeavours to get rid of her engagement at Birmingham," as stated by the managers at Covent Garden, in their notice respecting her non-appearance there, she used every possible exertion to fulfill that

engagement, and that "the object of her wishes" was to complete her undertaking with the greatest exactness in her power. We cannot but add, that the distress of Mr. Elliston, upon feeling himself obliged to conclude that Miss O'Neil was prevented from continuing her *route* to Birmingham was inconceivably great; and we consider the promptness with which he determined to proceed to London, and his active exertions there, to which success can alone be attributed, entitle him to the thanks of the public. It will be seen by the advertisements that Miss O'Neil will perform *every* evening this week, in order to complete her engagement of six nights prior to Monday next, when she has undertaken to play in London. Mr. Elliston has gladly availed himself of the services of Mr. Conway, and Mr. Bartley, whose important aid on this occasion will enable him to cast the several pieces in the most efficient manner.

To the advertisements of these performances this N.B. was added:—"No places can be altered or Tickets exchanged; and Servants keeping Seats must be at the Box Door at Half-past Five precisely."

In the notice of the appearance of this famous actress it will be seen that our friend "the oldest inhabitant" is called in to do service again:

THEATRE ROYAL.

October 14, 1816.—In the memory of the oldest inhabitant of the town, no event in our theatrical history has occasioned a sensation so remarkable as the performances of Miss O'Neil. The *mania* for a view of this interesting and highly gifted young lady has not been confined to any particular class in society, but pervaded all ranks; even a glance at her in her carriage was considered worthy of contention, and the doors of the Royal Hotel were constantly besieged with spectators, anxious to catch a glimpse of her, at her entrance or departure from the house.

Excepting at the periods of our Musical Festivals, we do not recollect to have seen so great an influx of strangers; and certainly on no former occasion do we remember such overflowing houses, or to have witnessed so extraordinary an avidity to obtain admission within the theatre. On almost every night of her appearance, the house filled so quickly that the doors have been closed long before the usual hour of commencement, and hundreds unable to effect an entrance have been obliged to return disappointed. To enter upon a minute criticism of Miss O'Neil's acting is unnecessary, the thousands who have been present during her performances have only to recal to their minds those touches of deep pathos by which their sympathy was so frequently and irresistibly excited. Her tones and enunciation are peculiarly harmonious and distinct, and her attention to the scene undeviating. Her delineation of the progress of passion appeared to us strikingly correct—her bursts seemed to electrify the whole of her auditors.

Mr. Elliston, who has been unceasing in his efforts to secure her eminent talents, has, we perceive with satisfaction, re-engaged her for a few nights next season.

The exertions of Mr. Conway and Mr. Bartley, during the engagement of Miss O'Neil, have most essentially contributed to give due effect to that lady's performance, by the able manner in which the characters allotted them have been sustained. The former of these gentlemen will take his benefit this evening, being the only remuneration for his valuable

services, and Mr. Bartley on Friday. On both occasions, we trust, their friends and the public will convince them that their eminent services on this, and on former occasions, are not forgotten, and will not be allowed to pass unrequited.

During her six nights' engagement Miss O'Neil played Juliet; Mrs. Oakley, in the Jealous Wife; Belvidera, in Venice Preserved; Mrs. Haller, in the Stranger; and Mrs. Beverly, in the Gamester. On the termination of the engagement Mr. Elliston issued the following address :—

THEATRE ROYAL, BIRMINGHAM.

October 14, 1816.—Mr. Elliston respectfully informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of Birmingham and its environs, that in consequence of the enthusiastic applause, and the numerous Disappointments for Places which have accompained all the performances during Miss O'Neil's visit, he was induced to undertake a second journey to London, after the Performances of Thursday Evening, in the hope, although distant, of securing that Young Lady's valuable assistance for three nights longer.

The arrangements of Covent Garden Theatre forbad the Realization of his hope, and he desisted from the Pursuit of his object.

He has, however, the satisfaction to announce, that, aware of the high opinion in which the merits of Miss O'Neil are held in this town, he has secured her services for a few nights in the next Season, and due Notice will be given of her appearance.

The Manager feels that no opportunity can be more proper than the present to convey his very grateful acknowledgments for the assistance he has received from the advice and personal exertions of several Gentlemen of this Town, in the arduous and critical arrangements necessary to be made for the accommodation and approval of so large an Influx of Company, where all were anxious to gain admission. In such trying circumstances, some Cause of Dissatisfaction may have arisen towards the best imagined Plans; but Mr. Elliston faithfully assures the Patrons of the Theatre, that every Precaution, every Endeavour was used to give the least possible cause of Complaint.

Numerous and large Fees which were offered for Places were refused, and not the slightest Preference was shown to those Gentlemen with whom Mr. Elliston is in the Habit of the most Friendly Intercourse, and not a single individual *privately* admitted.

Mr. Elliston understands, since his arrival, that many persons got into the Pit from the Box Entrance, on Friday Evening, and he finds that no Means could have prevented this, for on the Admission of the Servants to keep Places, the Crowd was so great, in Colonade, of Box Company, that all Resistance was ineffectual, and thus Numbers were admitted, who proceeded over the Boxes into the Pit, before the Pit Doors could be opened, many of whom must have been so hurried by the Pressure, as to prevent their best Efforts to pay.

Mr. Elliston repeatedly refused applications to lay the Pit into the Boxes, but the Practice of getting into the Pit through the Boxes, on similar occasions, has *occurred* in all Theatres.

Mr. Elliston has now merely to advert to the Conclusion of the season, which will take place as soon as the remaining Benefits can be disposed of.

The dramatic season of 1817 was not specially distinguished. Mr. Elliston was still the Manager, and was a host in himself. Grimaldi, "that Son of Momus," appeared in a new comic pantomime. Our local critic says—"it is worthy of remark, that in the hands of this actor, the most humorous sallies never exceed the bounds of the strictest propriety and decorum." In July the once famous Junius Brutus Booth performed a round of characters, and was supported by Miss Somerville, afterwards Mrs. Bunn. The "grand Dramatic Romance of the Forty Thieves," was revived; the Forty Thieves to be "mounted on REAL HORSES!!" In October, Mr. Ducrow made his "wonderful ascension from the Stage to the Gallery, surrounded by Fire-works, after the manner of the celebrated Madame Saqui." On the whole, 1817 appears to have been a rather dull year.

There was a minor Theatre in Worcester Street, and in February, while the Royal was closed, it was opened by permission of the Magistrates. We have only two announcements of performances at this place of amusement :—

MINOR THEATRE, WORCESTER STREET.

By Permission of the Magistrates.

Feb. 2, 1818.—Mr. Allan respectfully informs the Ladies and Gentlemen that the above Theatre is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday Evening, with a Variety of READINGS from some of the most popular Tragedies and Comedies, and select Music.

Monday,—Readings from John Bull, or an Englishman's Fireside; a Comic Song, by Mr. Cross; a Hornpipe, in Character of a British Sailor, by a Young Lady; and for this night only, Miss Evans will appear on the slack Wire; to conclude with Readings from Sylvester Daggerwood.

Wednesday,—Douglas, and Raising the Wind.

Friday,—By particular Desire, Othello, and Three Weeks after Marriage; the Readings of Iago, by a Gentleman of Respectability, being his first Appearance on any Stage.

Boxes, 2s. Gallery, 1s. To begin at Seven.

MINOR THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.

By Permission of the Magistrates.

Feb. 2, 1818.—Madame and Monsieur Gobert respectfully inform the inhabitants of Birmingham and its Vicinity, that they are just arrived from Paris, and purpose performing at the above Theatre To-morrow, (Tuesday) Thursday, and Saturday, the 3d, 5th, and 7th of February.

Madame Gobert, the *Female Hercules*, will exhibit a Variety of her wonderful Feats of STRENGTH and AGILITY. After which, Mons. Gobert will perform a Variety of RATIONAL and PLEASING AMUSEMENTS; the Whole to conclude with the *Infernal Torch*.

Doors open at Six, Performance to commence at Seven. Boxes, 2s. Gallery, 1s.

An entertainment peculiarly gratifying to sight-seers was made of the obsequies of the Princess Charlotte. The description of this spectacle is quite graphic :—

March 23, 1818.—For ten Days only.—Is opened at the Shakespeare Room, New Street, the grand Representation of the Lying in State of Her Royal and Serene Highness the Princess Charlotte Augusta, at the Lower Lodge, Windsor.

Peculiar Circumstances having rendered it impossible to gratify the intense Curiosity of the Public to see those splendid Honours which were paid to our late lamented Princess, at the Lower Lodge, Windsor, on the Day of her Interment, Permission has been given to exhibit, for a limited Time, a Fac-simile of that most Magnificent Spectacle, in which are introduced (by special Grant), the greater Part of the superb Articles which are always used on the melancholy occasion of departed Royalty, amongst which are the identical Candelabras and Sconces lighted with Wax Tapers of 1½-lb. each. The whole is got up under the Direction of the same Persons who had the superintendance of the august Original; and being upon the same scale of Grandeur and Expence, presents a Scene of solemn Magnificence and splendid Beauty, unrivalled by any Exhibition ever offered to the Public.

Admission, from Twelve o'Clock until Four, 2s.; and from Six until Nine, 1s. Children Half Price.

The next exhibition was of a different kind, but was probably not less attractive :—

May 18, 1818.—The Celebrated Dutch Dwarf. Exhibited under the Patronage of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and has been viewed in London by above 200,000 Persons!

Mr. Paap most respectfully informs the Public, in Compliance with the Wishes of a great Number of Parties, he will have the honour to see Company at the large Room, Red Lion, Dale End, this present Monday, To-morrow, and Wednesday, and takes this opportunity to return his grateful Acknowledgments for the liberal Patronage he has received.

THE SMALLEST MAN, and the greatest Wonder of the present Age!!! Mr. Simon Paap, a Gentleman 29 Years of Age, whose diminutive Stature measures only 28 Inches, whose *en bon Point* and perfect Symmetry render him a most pleasing Object. Unobstructed by his Weight, which is only 27 Pounds, he is perfectly agile, and performs the Manual Exercise with peculiar Grace! In short, for Smallness and Exactitude of Proportion, he challenges the World to produce his Fellow!! His Intellects bear no Proportion to his Person—they are much above the common Conception! He writes in three Languages, and converses with perfect Ease. He is a Native of Zandvoort, near Haarlem, in Holland, has had the Honour of exhibiting before His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange, and the Whole of the Nobility of that Country; and on the 5th of May, 1815, at Carlton

House, before Her Majesty, their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and Mary, and the Princess Charlotte of Wales, the Prince Regent, and the Dukes of York and Clarence, and has been visited by most of the Nobility in England.

Will receive Company from Ten o'clock in the Morning till Ten at Night.

Admittance, 1s. Servants and Children Half-price.

The Theatre was opened during the usual summer months; and one or two wonderful spectacular pieces were produced. Modern sensationalists might take a lesson from a drama played here called "The North Pole, or the Arctic Expedition;" produced with extraordinary scenic effects. The "splendid last scene" is thus described:—

July 13, 1818.—A Ship of immense size, fully rigged, with a Crew of Forty Persons, commanded by a Naval Officer, will effect her passage through Floating Islands of Ice, which, on separating, will show an Expanse of Ocean covering the Whole Stage; she will sail down to the Front Lights with her Bowsprit over the Pit! producing as novel and powerful effect as can be exhibited on the stage.

The name of Mr. Joseph Carles has frequently appeared in the course of this work. He was one of the most active of our public men, and in the disgraceful riots of 1791 earned the reputation of being one of the prompters of that display of bigoted violence and cruel outrage. His son became an actor, and on the occasion of his benefit the following appeal was made in his behalf:—

August 24, 1818.—Among the theatrical notices of this week is announced the benefit of Mr. Carles, who, it will be recollected, is son to the late Joseph Carles, Esq., of Handsworth. When the exertions of his father, as a magistrate in this town, are considered—his constant attention to the duties of his office during a very arduous period, and the last twenty years of whose life were devoted, without any emolument, to the services of the public—it is confidently presumed that *that* public will feel desirous to show their expressions of gratitude to the memory of their late worthy friend, by warmly espousing the cause of his son—a cause which has every honourable claim to the generous consideration of the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood. Mr. Carles has selected his friend, Mr. Thompson, colleague for that evening; a gentleman who, on his first visit here, evinces by his talent and great assiduity in his profession, a claim to public patronage and favour. We cannot but unite in wishing prosperity to the partnership.

The season, although Mr. Elliston was still manager, was an unsuccessful one. Towards its close the following address was published. It is curiously illustrative of the Manager, and throws not a little light on things theatrical in Birmingham at this time:—

ADDRESS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC.

It is always a disagreeable and an irksome Task for the Conductor of a Theatre to have occasion to complain of a want of Patronage. It is difficult to call into action that

Support which has been withheld; but good sense and proper feeling frequently do much when excited, and nothing is more likely to excite them than a "plain unvarnished Tale," at once ingenuous and explanatory. An Exposé of this sort will be made with considerable reluctance; but it appears to be a duty that the manager ought not to shrink from, and he has never avoided what he deemed to be his duty.

Under this impression it is that Mr. Elliston most respectfully addresses the *Public in general* on the very alarming Decrease of Patronage which has been so severely felt this Season.

It would be irrelevant to, and incompatible with, the nature and compass of this Address to analyse all the Causes which have led to so ruinous a Neglect of the Interests of the Theatre. Friends have suggested Reasons in direct Contradiction to the Voice of others. Prejudices will constantly be raised by interested individuals—these produce a Temporary Mischief; but in this kind of mock serious warfare, there ought not to be any radical evil; the Mind that imbibes a Prejudice from a desultory and half-informed conversation, is not likely to act upon it with determined Hostility; Common Understandings revolt at the wickedness of defamers, and the poison of their breath is seldom very subtile.

To what cause then is the total neglect of what is called the Stock Nights of the Theatre to be attributed. The Treasurer's books have been examined; on taking the average Receipts they amount to £24 and a fraction per night, while the Benefits of those Performers engaged for a limited period, have produced the following sums:—

	£	s.	d.	£	
Mrs. C. Kemble ...	39	18	0	— 50	secured to her
Mr. De Camp ...	32	19	6	— 40	secured to him
Miss Clara Fisher ...	45	3	6	—100	secured to her
Mr. Bartley ...	164	16	0		
Miss Kelly ...	45	6	0	— 90	secured to her
Miss Somerville ...	142	8	6		
Mr. Conway ...	120	7	0		
Mr. Knight ...	77	8	6		
Miss Brunton ...	85	15	6		
Mr. M'Cready ...	95	0	0	—100	secured to him
Mr. Bologna ...	37	5	6	— 35	secured to him

added to this, it may be remarked that the Benefits of the regular company have, in most instances, been greatly productive.

In this enumeration of London Performances, it will be seen how expensive in many instances the terms have been; and where no certain sum has been given, the division of the Benefit has been paid at the rate of from twenty to thirty guineas per week—in some instances the payment of the *Stars* has exceeded the whole receipts of the week.

Mr. Elliston is aware that his general Company has not, in Public estimation, been held in that repute he could have wished; but to those who encourage this opinion, he begs to say, that a great deal of the general effect of a Performance depends on points not at all connected with individual talent and that no foresight can ascertain the success of a Company collected from various Quarters. Experiments upon new talent must be made, and will often fail; yet engagements for the Season must be honourably fulfilled.

It is presumed that enough has been said to excite some sort of sympathy, and the object of this Appeal is not to do more. The loss upon the season, without an effort from the public, will be £1,500. The loss is not to be remedied, but it may be lessened.

Mr. Elliston requests a warm and active exertion for three nights only.

On Wednesday, September 2, some Gentlemen of the town, Amateurs, have generously offered their services in Colman's Comedy, "The Heir at Law."

On Friday, the 4th, the same aid will be offered for Morton's Comedy, called "A Cure for the Heart Ache;" and on this evening an endeavour will be made to procure an extensive patronage from the families resident in Birmingham and its environs.

Mr. Elliston will announce his own benefit for Monday, the 7th of September, on which occasion he will have the honour of presenting a new Comedy, called "The Green Man." The Theatre will then be closed until the Fair Week, when a performer of considerable eminence will appear.

The observations that have been made breathe no ill humour or discontent; they are offered in the Spirit of Integrity and Sincerity, and will, it is hoped, be received with indulgence. Mr. Elliston's whole mind has been employed in promoting the interests and respectability of the Drama in this town, and from the period he first undertook the management of this concern, his time, his purse, his personal efforts, have been devoted to it. He takes this opportunity of returning his heartfelt thanks to those who have attended the Theatre, although their efforts have not been sufficient to support the expenses of his establishment.

N.B.—The Treasurer is directed by Mr. Elliston to show the Receipts, if any Gentleman should be inclined to inspect them.

Private concerts were always a favourite and pleasant source of amusement in Birmingham. In 1819 a new series commenced, and from the first announcement we learn that the best singers of the time were engaged to perform at these entertainments. On April 12, this advertisement appeared :—

NEW PRIVATE CONCERTS.

We understand the Committee have engaged for their first Concert, which will take place this evening, some of the most eminent vocal and instrumental performers in the Kingdom, among whom are Mrs. Salmon, Miss Symonds, Mr. Pyne, Signor Spagnoletti, Mr. Willman, Mr. Piele, Mr. Norton, and others of great celebrity.

Bell-ringing was also very popular. Here is a record of one of these pleasant peals :—

April 12, 1819.—On Monday last was rung, at St. Philip's Church, by the St. Martin's Society of this town, a peal, consisting of 5,088 changes of Steadman Cators, in 3 hours and 36 minutes; the fifth and sixth bells were to their full extent behind the ninth in four regular main courses without double calls. Composed and conducted by Mr. T. Thurstance.

The Theatre was re-decorated and improved this season. On June 14, we learn that "no performance will take place on Thursday, that

evening being reserved for a dress rehersal of Brutus, intended to be brought forward on the Friday." On June 22, Mr. Paul Bedford made his first appearance in Birmingham, in the "musical Farce of the Quaker." Nor was the method of producing a spectral illusion unknown to the stage resources of the time. On July 5, we read :—

The new melo-drama of the Castle of Palrizzi was produced for the first time last Wednesday. Conway, as the Count, exhibited a fine picture of the guilty Salviati, and supported by Mrs. Weston in the murder scene, called forth the most tumultuous applause. The most conspicuous scene of the piece is the representation of a mirror reflecting the murder, and so dexterously is the illusion managed, that half the audience believed the glass was real.

This season it was suggested, "by the principal Patrons of the Drama in this Town, that one evening in the Week should be dedicated to the performance of the Plays of our immortal Bard, Shakespeare, it is most respectfully intimated, that every Wednesday evening will be appropriated to the same." As will be seen by the following paragraph this suggestion was adopted :—

July 19, 1819.—It will be seen that the Manager, in accordance with the suggestion of some of his friends, has established a night which he intends dedicating to the memory of Shakespeare ; this will enable the admirers of the immortal bard to visit the theatre on a particular evening, certain of witnessing some one of his dramatic works. The acquisition of such performers to our company as Mrs. Bunn, Mr. Conway, Mr. Pope, and Mrs. Weston, under an arrangement of this nature, cannot but be strikingly obvious. For the information of visitors from the country, the nights of Mrs. Bunn's appearance next week, in her celebrated characters of Bianca, Adelgitha, Hermione, and Belvidera, have been announced. Her performance of two of them are too well known to need comment; Adelgitha was the second piece in which Mrs. B. appeared at Covent Garden, and is decidedly one of her best efforts ; the Winter's Tale was also revived there for the express purpose of bringing her Hermione before the public.

On Thursday, January 6, 1820, the Theatre Royal was again destroyed by fire. "It is," says the reporter of the time, "a singular coincidence, that the theatre which stood on the site of the late one, and which was consumed by fire, caused by incendiaries after several unsuccessful attempts, during the night of the 17th of August, 1792, should have taken place on the same day of the week, and that it should have broken out exactly at the same hour, and have been entirely destroyed in the same short space of time, three hours. It is likewise a curious coincidence, that Pizarro was the play performed on the night Covent Garden Theatre was burnt down, and that it was then also

conjectured that the wadding from the gun fired at Rolla had caused the conflagration." The fire was purely accidental. Theatrical amusements were not suspended in consequence of this disaster. "By permission of the Magistrates," performances were given at the Minor Theatre, in Worcester Street. Nor were other entertainments lacking. On July 3 the following announcement appeared :—

The celebrated Mr. Matthews, from the English Opera House, has the Honour to inform the Public of Birmingham and its Neighbourhood, that he will have the Pleasure of being "At Home," in the Royal Hotel Assembly Rooms, on Thursday, the 20th and Saturday the 22nd Inst., when he will entertain his Friends with his two last popular Entertainments—"A Trip to Paris," and his "Country Cousins."

The rebuilding of the Theatre Royal was rapidly carried on. Only seven months after its destruction the following paragraph was published :—

NEW THEATRE ROYAL.

July 24, 1820.—Our Manager, it will be seen, announces the opening of this splendid edifice on Monday, the 14th of next month, and the performers are by public notice directed to assemble on the 10th. Of the company at present engaged the following may be enumerated :—Mr. Conway, acting manager; Mr. Rae, late stage manager of Drury Lane Theatre, a gentleman of the highest talents; Messrs. Butler, Denning, and Foot; Mr. Benson, principal singer at Drury-lane; Mr. Isaacs, of Covent-garden; Mr. Thorne, of Drury-lane; and Mr. Egan, from Bath, &c. The establishment will derive great accession from the engagement of Madame Vestris, who, with Mrs. Corri, Miss Blanchard, from the Haymarket Theatre, Mrs. Egan, Miss Boyce, from Drury-lane, and Mrs. Weston, will form the leading female performers. Mrs. Bunn, as long as she can possibly be spared by the proprietors of Covent-garden, will also give the aid of her powerful talents. By this statement it will be clearly apparent that Mr. Bunn has spared no expence in his endeavour to assemble a company surpassing every provincial one that has preceded it. The scenery of the new Theatre, which will far exceed anything of the kind ever seen in this town, is in the hands of those able artists, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Whitmore, and Mr. Grieve. The front drop, on which 100*l.* will be expended, is painting by Mr. Dixon, and the interior decorations are executing in London, on the most splendid scale, by Dixon and Son. The utmost attention has been paid to the orchestral arrangements, and the band, led by Mr. Parnell, will be full and complete.

On August 7 we have this description of the

NEW THEATRE ROYAL.

We are this week enabled to give some further and more minute particulars relative to the building, decoration, &c., of this superb establishment. When it is recollected how recently the new edifice was commenced, it will become a matter of great astonishment that its opening should be accomplished by the time announced; and the greatest credit must be considered as justly due to every individual through whose exertions so surprising an effort has been brought about. It is now nearly twenty-six years since this town

witnessed the opening of a New Theatre ; we are therefore happy in being able to gratify public anxiety and curiosity by entering into a detail of its particular character and appearance.

The present Theatre is built on the site of the late one, on a plan of great and valuable improvement, from the designs of Samuel Beayley, Esq., architect, of London, and executed by the principal builders of this town. The Box Entrance, for the present, retains its old situation, as there has not been time enough to admit of erecting the intended new one. The Pit is entered by the old passage in Lower Temple Street, whe e immediately after passing the check-taker, a pair of folding doors, and a staircase either to the right or left, shews the pit ; the old lobbies are converted into additional sitting rooms. The Gallery is approached, as formerly, in Queen Street ; on gaining admission and passing the money-taker's office, a few steps are erected to level the steep ascent so much complained of in the late building, and the gallery is then gained, as before, by a double staircase.

On entering the House the eye will be attracted by a brilliancy of light and ornaments of the most splended appearance, but on more closely examining its effect the beholder will soon distinguish its different degrees of beauty and order of decoration. The form of the Theatre is that of a Lyre, united to the stage by an elliptic cove, which forms the Proscenium. The very novel but beautiful form of this Proscenium is one of the most striking features of the whole house. It is considerably contracted from its old form and appearance, and the room is thrown into the body of the Theatre, thereby affording a much greater space for visitors. Over each stage door, and just under the springing of the Proscenium arch, are two private boxes, which, in addition to their appearance, will form a pleasant retreat for a party wishing to attend the Theatre not full dressed. The next most striking feature of the house, and one on which too much eulogium cannot be passed, is the unique, but singularly beautiful, construction of the ceiling. It is a stellar dome, supported by Greek pillars, surmounted by a very rich entablature, from which the ceiling springs. It is divided into compartments, with an Apollo's head in the centre. Its decorations are gilded relievos on a pink ground, and each compartment is panelled with a rich gold moulding. The effect of the whole is peculiarly rich. The decorations of the three tiers of boxes are perfectly classical, being selected and adapted from the antique Temples of Greece. On the lower circle a very bold Etruscan scroll s fixed ; on the second circle a less prominent ornament appears, and the top one is composed of the honeysuckle. The panels on which these respective ornaments appear are divided from each other by pilasters, decorated alternately with antique lyres, caduceii, and oak wreaths. The columns which support the boxes are white and gold. The prevailing colour in the house is a warm pink, yet the whole of the colouring is so blended as to leave no harshness of distinction between the different tints. Over each column protrudes a burnished gold bracket, supporting a rich cut-glass chandelier ; and the burner of each light is encircled in a globe, distributing it to great advantage. The chandeliers are manufactured by Messrs. Hawkes, of Dudley.

Under the door of each box in the dress circle will be perceived an iron plate, perforated for the purpose of admitting warm and cold air through every part of the Theatre, and various communications have been left in order to give it full effect. By the erection of this machine, on which no expense has been spared, a circulation of 4,000 cubic feet of air is thrown into the house ; and the whole is kept in constant operation by means of a

cylindrical turn-cap, erected on the roof of the Theatre, access to which is obtained by numerous ventilators introduced in the ceiling of the outer circle. From the front of the Theatre the eye is naturally directed to the stage, and here the greatest possible improvement has been effected. By taking in an angle of seven feet of ground, in Queen Street, the stage has been materially widened ; and it is the opinion of the manager and different theatrical persons who have seen it, that it is one of the most complete and masterly pieces of workmanship of the kind in England. The Frontispiece, after the model of Covent Garden Theatre, will rise eight feet above its usual height on particular occasions, when processions are introduced ; and by means of moving pilasters on each side of the Proscenium, the stage can be thrown open to the amazing width of forty feet. By effecting a fall of twenty-one feet under the stage the greatest facility will be given to the business of it, and altogether make it as perfect as the ground on which it is erected can admit of.

From this description, and from the announcement of the Performers, Artists, and various operative persons engaged in the formation of this elegant Theatre, it will be seen that so high a treat has never before been offered to the public of Birmingham. The establishment, in the opinion of every person who is able to judge on the subject, may vie with any in Great Britain ; and Mr. Bunn having gone to an unusual expence in offering entertainment in every respect worthy of the Theatre, will, no doubt, receive from the town that patronage his recent losses, yet continued anxiety, justly entitle him to.

In reference to the very excellent company intended to be introduced, we cannot allow ourselves to omit alluding to the engagement of Madame Vestris as one of the most fortunate and valuable that could have been made. This fascinating actress and most accomplished singer, has been the prima donna of the Italian Opera both of London and Paris, was last season the principal attraction at Drury-lane, and is now drawing crowded houses nightly to the Haymarket Theatre. She was educated in the very first school of singing, and is fully entitled to the high eulogiums universally passed upon her.

The new theatre was opened on August 14, with the comedy of The Rivals, and a new farce, written by Mr. S. Beazley, Architect of the Theatre, and called The Promissory Note. During the season Madame Vestris, Miss Stephens, Mrs. Bunn, and other celebrities appeared. Virginius and Black-Eyed Susan were also performed for the first time. The Season of 1821 was not distinguished by any specialities. Mrs. Bunn, Mr. Vandenhoff, Mr. W. Macready, and Mr. Mathews appeared, and the drama kept on the even tenor of its way during the summer months in which the Theatre was open.

§ 4 MANNERS, CUSTOMS, ETC.

We have only a very few items to record in this section for the present decade. Bull-baiting and cock-fighting were happily diminishing,

but were not entirely abolished. The first extract is a curious matrimonial advertisement :—

To Ladies.

April 24, 1815.—Seeing that Comfort and Happiness are the Aim and End of every reflecting Individual, and that these Qualities cannot be fully realised in a domestic Point of View, without an Union of the two Sexes ; it is therefore hereby notified that two Friends, whose characters for respectability are well known, the one an unencumbered Widower of fifty, the other single, about thirty-six, both with Persons far from despicable, and Dispositions which tend to ingratiate, and that must be acceptable to any Lady of an elevated and well informed Mind, have the Intention, in the ensuing Summer, of performing a Tour through Scotland and Ireland, and, to give such an Excursion its full Effect, they invite two Ladies, who, by uniting their Hands, Fate, and Fortune with theirs, will not only accompany them in this pleasing Ramble, but also in their Peregrination through Life. As a proof of the Seriousness of this application, and that Ladies may be assured that it is not done with a View to amuse or deceive them, a Person of their own Sex is already properly instructed to remove the Doubts of the Diffident, and to fully satisfy the Inquiries of any Lady, who prefering Candour to rigid Formalities, looks forward to an Alteration of her Situation not to be neglected. Personal Application will be preferable to Letters, though if any are addressed (Post paid), the strictest Honour and Secrecy may be relied on, and under such Confidence it is expected none will be sent unless with real Names and Places of Abode; to any Thing short of this, no Reply can be expected. Address to X. Y., at No. 21, Upper Temple Street, Birmingham.

The following is a gem in its way :—

Fifty Guineas Reward.

May 25, 1812.—If the woman, who on the 9th of May inst., left at Aris's Gazette Office an advertisement written with Red Ink, and beginning with "Speedily will be published, the First Chapter of the Lamentations of James," and purporting to be printed by "Belcher and Son," will discover her Employer, she shall be exonerated from all Prosecution, and receive the above reward, on application to the Printer of this Paper.

The Editor embraces this Opportunity of expressing his sincere Regret that the impudent and unwarrantable Use which was made of Mr. Belcher's name, should have induced him to admit an Advertisement, which it now appears was solely intended to wound the Feelings of a Gentleman, whose unsullied Reputation can neither be tarnished by the Mildew of Insinuation, nor be depreciated in the Estimation of Mankind by the Whispers of Malevolence.

Hot rolls were not allowed to be sold on the Sunday, as two unfortunate bakers found to their cost :—

August 26, 1816.—Caution : On Thursday last, two bakers of this town were convicted in the full penalties, and costs, for baking and exposing to sale *hot rolls* upon the Sunday.

Here is a specimen of old servant-girlism :—

Situation.

August 16, 1813.—Wanted by a young Person who has had considerable Practice in plain Cookery, Washing, getting up of Linen, and the entire Business of a House. Would

be glad to engage as Servant in a small Genteel Family, where she could improve herself, at vacant hours, in other branches, such as needlework, &c. If consisting of middle-aged People, or two or three Females only who are instructive will be the more desirable. Wages not so much an object as a comfortable Situation and requisite Instruction; the Particulars of which may be known by addressing a line (with real Name and Residence) to A. X., at the Printers, which will meet with immediate attention.

N.B.—Has lived several years in her last place, and can be well recommended.

What will our trades' unions think of a state of things in which the following sentence was possible ?—

COMBINATION OF WORKMEN.

July 27, 1818.—On Thursday, Henry Peters and Mark Bills, two journeymen Gun Furniture Forgers, were convicted at the Public Office in this Town, before William Bradford and Isaac Spooner, Esqrs., for an unlawful combination to raise the price of their wages, and sentenced to two months' imprisonment, and to be kept to hard labour, in the house of correction.

The following is a record of one of the customs of the time :—

July 1, 1816.—Caution : Artificers, husbandmen, and the public at large, are requested to be upon their guard against the many delusive hand-bills and sinister arts that are used to entice them to emigrate to America; the number of disappointed and distressed artists, manufacturers, &c., &c., who are now starving in America, for want of the necessaries of life, are exceedingly numerous. Upwards of 1000 of these unfortunate people have applied to his Majesty's Consul, at New York, for passports to return to their native country, having expended what little money they had, and being unable to obtain employment.

That Cocking was not a custom which was, as yet, driven to secret devices, the following advertisement is proof sufficient :—

NEW COCK PIT, COLESHILL STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

March 31, 1817.—A Main of Cocks to be fought, at the above Pit, on Easter Monday and the three following Days, between the Gentlemen of Warwickshire and the Gentlemen of Staffordshire, for one Hundred Guineas the Main, and two Guineas each Battle. Feeders : Gilliver, for Warwickshire ; Partridge, for Staffordshire.

The next two extracts record an extraordinary feat of pedestrianism :—

PEDESTRIANISM.

May 25, 1818.—J. Wright, the celebrated Bristol Pedestrian, now in the 55th year of his age, has undertaken to walk 625 miles in 12 days (Sundays excepted), in Vauxhall Gardens, near this town, being limited to 14 hours a day, resting time included. He commenced the arduous task, in the presence of many spectators, at seven o'clock on Tuesday morning, and completed on that day 53 miles before nine at night; on Wednesday, within the same hours, he walked 52 miles ; on Thursday 51 ; Friday 52 ; and Saturday 53. He continues in high spirits, and expresses his confidence in being able to perform the herculean undertaking within the limited period.

June 8, 1818.—Wright, the Pedestrian, completed his task of walking 625 miles in twelve days, on Monday last. On that day he had to perform 61 miles in 14 hours, to make good his undertaking; and in consequence of a bet to that effect, he extended his walk to 75 miles, the whole of which he accomplished soon after eleven o'clock.

THE DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION.

We owe this admirable charity indirectly to the Philosophical Institution. In the year 1812 Mr. De Lys was lecturing to the members of the latter, and, writes Mr. Pye, "he descanted upon the advantages an unfortunate class of society (the deaf and dumb) might derive, if they were put under proper management; and to elucidate the subject he introduced a girl, about eight years of age, who, labouring under those defects, he and his friend, Mr. A. Blair, had been very attentive to. She, being in other respects endowed with an excellent capacity, paid great attention to what was going forward, and with promptness executed, or rather anticipated, the wishes of her instructors, which proved a very animated and affecting spectacle. This circumstance gave rise to a General Institution for the Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Children."* In a few days after the lecture had been delivered a private meeting was held, at which it was resolved to establish such an institution in this town. On November 23, 1812, the following paragraph appeared in the *Gazette*:—

It will be learned with very general pleasure, that it is in contemplation to establish an institution in this town for the instruction of the deaf and dumb. There is at present, in this kingdom, but one establishment of the kind, in the neighbourhood of London. But there is reason to believe that every great town contains individuals enough in this unhappy condition, to supply a school of its own; and it is probable that nothing has been wanting to the establishment of such schools in many places but to be once began. The means of support could not be wanting towards the instruction of the deaf and dumb. The strength of their claim on society for this office of humanity must be felt by all who have thought on the nature of their condition, debarring them in some sort from communication with their fellow creatures, and withholding from them all important knowledge, which others possess, especially those truths which are given to all men to know.

The following is the report of the private meeting:—

BIRMINGHAM.

November 30, 1812.—At a Meeting held at St. Philip's Parsonage, on the 21st Day of November, 1812,

* Modern Birmingham. By Charles Pye, p. 36.

The Rev. Dr. Outram, in the Chair;

Present

Rev. John Cooke,	Mr. T. Green Simcox,
Rev. Rann Kennedy,	Mr. William Phipson,
Rev. John Corrie,	Mr. Richard Peyton,
Captain Lewis,	Mr. Joseph Willmore,
Mr. Woolley,	Mr. William Blakeway,
Mr. Joseph Ledsam,	Mr. James Male,
Mr. S. Tertius Galton,	Mr. Thomas Clark,
Dr. Booth,	Mr. T. W. Hill,
Dr. Solomon,	Mr. Frederick Piercy,
Mr. Thomas Ryland,	Mr. A. Blair, junr.

Mr. G. De Lys.

Resolved unanimously,—That it appears to this Meeting, that it is practicable and expedient to establish an Institution in this Town for the Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Children.

Resolved unanimously,—That, although it is probable the Expenses of such an Institution will, at the Outset, be very moderate, it is desirable that it should be begun under as respectable and extensive a Patronage as possible.

Resolved unanimously,—That such Ladies and Gentlemen of this town and Neighbourhood as may be disposed to support the intended Institution, be hereby invited to meet at the Blue Coat Charity School, on Friday next, the 4th December; the Chair to be taken at Twelve o'clock precisely. EDMUND OUTRAM, Chairman.

On December 4, a public meeting was held at the Blue Coat School, the Rev. Dr. Outram in the Chair, and it was resolved, that a Society be formed for the Support and Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Children. The chairman was elected the first President; the Rev. James Corrie, Vice-President; James Woolley, Treasurer; G. De Lys, Secretary; and the following Gentlemen the first Committee :—

William Villers, Esq.,	Messrs. W. W. Capper,
George Simcox, Esq.,	Joseph Ledsam,
W. Hamper, Esq.,	Timothy Smith,
E. Johnstone, M.D.,	S. T. Galton,
Rev. E. Burn,	A. Blair, jun.,
Rev. T. L. Freer,	W. Lardner,
Rev. R. Kennedy,	William Phipson,
Rev. John Kentish,	Thomas Ryland,

Mr. S. Galton.

In less than a year from the date of this meeting the Committee were able to make this important announcement :—

Central Institution for the Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Children Established in Birmingham.

October 18, 1813.—The Committee of Subscribers to this charitable Plan have great Pleasure in announcing to a benevolent Public, that they have engaged the Services of Mr. Braidwood, who will reside wholly in or near Birmingham, as Teacher of the Deaf and Dumb. From the Month of December last, (when this Institution was formed) the Committee were anxious to provide an experienced Teacher; or, if that should be impracticable, to appoint an active and intelligent, although inexperienced Person, and procure for him the requisite instruction. But so difficult and rare is this Art, which has been well defined to be the Art of teaching to hear with the Eye, and so valuable is it deemed to its very few Professors, that their best and unremitted Efforts were from time to time of little avail. And much as they then lamented this Want of Success, they now esteem it fortunate that they did not finally appoint any other Teacher; confident that the Delay which has arisen will be amply compensated by the Advantages to be derived from Mr. Braidwood's superior Talents and Experience; and that the Institution, if supported by adequate pecuniary Aid, will be highly creditable to this Town, and interesting to the Country around it. Mr. Braidwood is of a Family well known to have practised the Art of instructing the Deaf and Dumb with great and distinguished success for three Generations. The Ability and Humanity of his Grandfather and Father, Mr. Thomas and Mr. John Braidwood, who, not long after the Middle of the last Century, established a celebrated School or College of this Description at Edinburgh, have been long and deservedly acknowledged; and from them, all that is now taught of the Art in this Country appears to be derived. They received the Tribute, which was so justly due, from Dr. Johnston in his journey to the Hebrides, Mr. Pennant in his Tour through Scotland, and Mr. Arnot in his History of Edinburgh. Afterwards they removed with their whole Establishment to Hackney, where it has continued ever since, and where Mr. Braidwood (with whom the Committee have treated) has to this Time conducted a large and flourishing Academy. It is almost needless to assure the Public, that he could lay before them the strongest Testimonials both of moral and intellectual Character, and of successful Exertions, if it were requisite.

The Committee are well aware that there is in London an excellent and opulent Establishment, where a hundred and forty-four Deaf and Dumb Children are at present both instructed and supported. Yet it appears from the Report and Lists of that Asylum, that its Governors are not able to receive more than one Third of the unfortunate Objects that are offered to them; and that the Children whom they do receive are sent from all Parts of England. These simple Facts relative to that great and truly respectable Establishment, seem sufficient to show the Expediency of having a Sister Institution in a Part of the Kingdom so central and populous as that in which Birmingham is situate. It has been ascertained that there are, in the Town of Birmingham alone, not fewer than twenty poor Children, fit Objects of this Charity.

The Committee are highly gratified in having it in their Power to state that, at the last Assize at Warwick, the Gentlemen of a most respectable Grand Jury, and the High Sheriff, unanimously subscribed to this Institution, and kindly honoured it with their powerful Recommendation to the Country at large, as appears by the following Minute:—

"Grand Jury Chamber, Warwick, August 17, 1813.—It having been represented to the Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, that an Institution is established in the Town of Birming-

ham for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, which, if its Funds were enlarged might become of great and extensive Utility, they strongly recommend it to the Notice and Patronage of the County in general. C. Mordaunt, Theophilus Biddulph, William Hamper, D. S. Dugdale, Abraham Greaves, William Holbech, Francis Canning, C. E. Repington, William Little, Theodore Price, C. P. Packwood, Robert Willoughby, Matthew Wise, junr., John Boultbee, Joseph Boultbee, C. G. Wade, C. Bowyer Adderley, William Moody, Thomas Barker, William Harding, William Withering, James Woolley, Evelyn J. Shirley (Sheriff), Heneage Legge, William Villers, George Simcox." The Committee are encouraged to hope that many benevolent Inhabitants of the other Inland Counties, and more particularly the neighbouring Counties of Stafford and Worcester, will concur in aiding and patronising an Institution which, without an extensive Subscription cannot be supported, and which has for its Object the Relief of a numerous but almost unseen and unknown Class of fellow Creatures, whose Condition in all Respects, and especially in Respect of their total Want of Religious Knowledge, is most dreary, helpless, and pitiable. Their Misfortune has been characterised as the most desperate of human Calamities.* Until the Funds of this Establishment shall be enlarged, it will not be practicable to clothe or maintain any of the Children. Those who recommend them (as all the Subscribers are invited to do) will have to take care that they be provided with Board and Lodging, and sent daily to the Room of the Institution. The Benevolent and Humane of every Denomination are earnestly solicited to contribute their Assistance towards carrying this charitable Undertaking into full Effect, and are respectfully informed, that Messrs. Coales, Woolley, and Gordon, Bankers, of Birmingham, will receive Subscriptions and Donations; and that Mr. Gabriel De Lys, of Birmingham, is Secretary to the Charity.

E. Outram, Rector of St. Philip's Birmingham. } President.

J. Corrie, Vice-President.

The notice of the opening of the institution appeared January 10, 1814, the day upon which that memorable event took place :—

January 10, 1814.—We are happy to be able to state that the Institution for the Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Children, which was formed in this town about twelve months since, this day opens its school, under the direction of Mr. Braidwood; and thus the extraordinary art which affords to an unfortunate class of beings the means (which seemed to have been denied them by nature) of communication with their species, has at length a fixed establishment in Birmingham.

The report of the annual meeting was published on September 12, and from this document we learn that "The number of Children admitted has been designedly small, because it was conceived that where a system of instruction was to be introduced which was altogether new to the pupils, it could be much more effectually as well as more easily established in the School by limiting the number at first, among whom the attention of the Teacher was to be divided. There are now fifteen

* Johnson's Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland.

children attending the School, three of whom are not of this town, but sent to it from a distance, and their support provided for without expence to the Institution."

On the 28th of August Mr. M'Cready gave the Theatre Royal for the benefit of the new Institution. An address, written by the Rev. C. Kennedy for the occasion, was delivered by Mrs. Edwin. On September 12 this address was published, with a preliminary note :—

Imperfect copies of the following lines being in circulation, and one having actually appeared in the *Morning Post* of the 6th inst., (with the author's name, but with an academical title which does not belong to it) the Committee, at whose request they were written, think proper to send them in a correct form to the press.

ADDRESS—Spoken by Mrs. Edwin, immediately after the Play of the Deaf and Dumb, acted in Birmingham, on the 28th of August, 1814, before his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, for the Benefit of the General Institution for the Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Children, of which he is President.

If ye, spectators of our Drama's plot,
Have sympathised with injured Julio's lot,
And if your breasts have hail'd with glad applause,
The warm asserters of his righteous cause.
In them behold yourselves, that hither come,
As generous Patrons of the Deaf and Dumb,
Outcasts by birth, that still might want in vain,
Rights dearer far than Julio's lost domain,
That unacquainted with creation's plan,
Might never feel the dignity of man,
Yet wear his form, while sunk in mental death,
They walk the earth mere vehicles of breath.

No voice maternal soothed their infant hours,
Or woke by prattled love their thinking powers;
Shut out for ever from the realms of sound,
With them the countless moving lips around
Hold no communion, far beyond their reach
Are all the social blandishments of speech,—
All that to hearing can be told or sung,
When the heart's music modulates the tongue.

Yet, as where Julio his lov'd home obtain'd,
Here may their *nature's* heritage be gain'd,
Where with success to De l'Epee unknown,
For them a Braidwood's master-skill is shown;
'Tis here, while knowledge courts their tutor'd sight,
Their mouths unlock'd can mimic words aright.

And though its fame is spread o'er every coast,
Say, can this Seat of Arts as nobly boast
That here each metal every shape assumes
Which use contrives and elegance illumes,
As that, in Woe's mute children, here we find
Uprais'd and clear, the buried Ore of Mind,
That on their gaze, to her asylum brought,
Here patient Pity opes new worlds of thought,
With sense and feeling gives their eyes to shine,
And lights up all the human face divine,
Gives them, in silent prayer, to lift on high
The smile of conscious immortality?

May ye, whose efforts such designs befriend,
Still more and more their blest effects extend,
And o'er those efforts be it long your pride
To see th' illustrious Cavendish preside,
Who, thus engaged, with purer joy shall glow
Than wealth e'er brought, or grandeur can bestow.

Early in 1815 we have this brief notice of the Institution :—

Feb. 6, 1815.—We are happy to inform the public, that the Asylum, at Edgbaston, for the Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Children, handsomely fitted up by Lord Calthorpe, is now opened, and that twenty children, admitted by ballot, are lodged and instructed under the care of Mr. Braidwood and a matron. The building is spacious enough to accommodate a much larger number, provided the funds were increased; and our hopes of a far more extended patronage are very sanguine, from the impression on the public mind respecting the great importance of this Central Institution, established for so benevolent and humane a purpose, and intended to admit proper objects from every part of the kingdom; but more especially from all the surrounding counties. In these hopes we are much encouraged by the liberal support previously received under the valuable patronage of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, and other distinguished personages.

From the year 1812 this institution has been actively discharging its noble and merciful office. From a statement published in 1867 we find that the number of children educated and boarded during the past three years was as follows: On the books in October, 1864—Boys, 57; subsequent admissions in 1865, 10; in 1866, 7; in 1867, 13; total, 87. Girls, 50; subsequent admissions, in 1865, 7; in 1866, 9; in 1867, 5; total, 71. Total under instruction in three years—Boys, 87; Girls, 71; total, 158.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

The year 1821 deserves a golden cross in our annals. From time to time the importance of the cultivation of the fine arts, and the arts of design, to a manufacturing town like Birmingham, had been forcibly pointed out, and readily admitted. Still no general effort was made to give effect to these suggestions. The old and not-yet-worn-out cry that "we are doing very well as we are," was even more potent sixty years ago than it is now. At last our leading public men—the men ever foremost in all good work for the improvement of the town and the people—took this matter in hand, and set to work with their usual earnestness, and in a little time Birmingham added to her many noble and useful institutions the much needed Society of Arts. The first intimation we have of this undertaking appeared in the *Gazette* on the first of January, 1821—a hopeful and gracious augury for the new year :—

The Fine Arts.

We congratulate our readers on the probability of an Institution being soon established in this town for encouraging the cultivation of the Fine Arts. The friends of this great manufacturing district have long had occasion to regret that there has not existed among us any collection of casts of the more approved specimens of sculpture for the imitation of our artists, whose talents and ingenuity, if aided by an advantage of this kind would, in all probability, enable them to arrive at a higher degree of perfection in various articles of manufacture, and thereby extend the demand for them in foreign markets. We are informed that some noblemen and gentlemen, resident in this neighbourhood, have expressed their readiness to contribute liberally to the support of an Institution for supplying this deficiency ; and, if determined upon, there is a probability that it would at its outset be presented with a numerous and very valuable collection, comprising models of nearly all the most approved statues of antiquity, and of other specimens of sculpture more immediately applicable to the purpose of many of our manufactures, by a gentleman who has taken great interest in promoting its establishment.

We sincerely hope that the views of these munificent patrons of the Arts may receive the liberal concurrence of the principal inhabitants of the town, and that their endeavours may be successfully combined in establishing upon a permanent plan a Museum for the reception of models in sculpture and engraving which will afford the means of forming and correcting the taste of the rising generation, and contribute essentially to the improvement of all those branches of manufacture which are most susceptible of decoration.

In a week or two the originators of the new society issued the following advertisement :—

Society of Arts.

Birmingham, January 26, 1821.—We, the undersigned, considering that the due cultivation of the Fine Arts is essential to the prosperity of the manufactures of this town and neighbourhood, and that no society at present exists for this specific purpose, and being of opinion that it is extremely desirable such a society should be now formed, do hereby invite all persons resident in the town and neighbourhood of Birmingham, who may be disposed to unite in promoting this object, to a meeting, to be held at the Public Office, in Moor Street, on Wednesday, the 7th of February, at twelve o'clock in the forenoon, in order to take the subject into consideration.

Samuel Galton,	George Yates,	S. Tertius Galton,
Edward Outram,	W. Wynne Smith,	John Gordon,
William Hamper,	J. W. Unett,	Thomas Attwood,
Edward Johnstone,	P. M. James,	John Towers Lawrence,
J. H. Spry,	George Barker,	Edward Thomason,
James Woolley,	Josiah Corrie,	Archibald Kenrick,
Samuel Ryland,	J. A. James,	John Badams,
William Wallis,	John Johnstone,	Theophilus Richards, jun.,
H. Galton,	Timothy Smith,	J. V. Barber.

The meeting was held, and the results are given in the following report :—

February 12, 1821.—At a Meeting held pursuant to advertisement, at the Public Office, in Birmingham, on the 7th of February, 1821, to take into consideration the propriety of forming a Society for promoting the cultivation of the Fine Arts, Samuel Galton, Esq., in the Chair ;

It appearing to this Meeting that the due cultivation of the Fine Arts is essential to the Prosperity of the Manufacturers of this Town and Neighbourhood, and that no Society at present exists for this specific purpose, it is considered to be extremely desirable that such an Institution be now formed, at the same time retaining the power of hereafter extending its plan to such objects as are in any way connected with the general promotion of useful knowledge,

It is Resolved :—

1st.—That an Institution be now established in Birmingham for the encouragement of Arts and Manufactures, and that it be called "The Birmingham Society of Arts."

2nd.—That a Museum be formed for the Reception of Casts and Models of the most approved Specimens of Sculpture, and of all such other Works, illustrative of the different Branches of Art, as the Society may have the means of procuring.

3rd.—That suitable accommodation be provided for Students in the Fine Arts, subject to such Regulations as may be framed by the Committee to be appointed for conducting the affairs of the Society.

4th.—That if at any time it shall be deemed expedient, the Committee have the power of making arrangements for public Exhibitions of the Works of Art, and for the Delivery of Lectures on Subjects connected with the purposes of the Institution.

5th.—That the Members of the Institution consist of Patrons, Proprietors, and Governors.

6th.—That each Subscriber of £100 or more be a Patron of the Society; that he hold a transferable share in the Property in proportion to his Subscription; that he have two Votes at all General Meetings; that he have a power to attend and vote at all Committee Meetings, and that he be eligible as a Trustee.

7th.—That each Subscriber of £50 shall be a Proprietor; shall hold a transferable Share in the Property in proportion to his Subscription; and that he have one Vote at all General Meetings of the Society.

8th.—That each annual Subscriber of Two Guineas be a Governor, and as such entitled to attend and Vote at all General Meetings of the Society.

9th.—That the Property of the Institution be vested in five Trustees, to be elected from the body of Patrons, who shall hold the same in Trust for the Proprietors, and that the Number shall be filled up at the next General Meeting when reduced to three.

10th.—That every Member have free admission for himself to the Institution, and the power of admitting any number of individuals of his family to view the Works of Art, and to Draw and Model there, subject to the Regulations of the Committee.

11th.—That every annual Subscriber of one Guinea be entitled to personal admissions to the Institution, to Draw or Model, subject in like manner to the Regulations of the Committee, and that he be at liberty to transfer such right, for the year, to any individual of his family; but that this Subscription do not entitle him to any Share in the Management of the Affairs of the Society.

12th.—That there be an annual General Meeting of the Members on the first Wednesday in October, and that all Ladies being Members of the Society, and all Members resident more than five miles from Birmingham, be entitled to vote by proxy, such proxy being a Member, and authorised by the Signature of the Party.

The following resolution was also passed :—

That a General Meeting be called of this Society on the first Wednesday in March next, and that in the mean time the following Gentlemen, who signed the Requisition, be requested to act as a Provisional Committee :—

Samuel Galton	John Johnstone	J. W. Unett
W. Hamper	Timothy Smith	George Barker
Edward Johnstone	S. Tertius Galton	Josiah Corrie
J. H. Spry	John Gordon	J. A. James
James Woolley	Thos. Attwood	Edw. Thomason
John Corrie	J. T. Lawrence	A. Kenrick
Hyla Holden	H. Galton	John Badhams
Samuel Ryland	George Yates	T. Richards, jun.
Wm. Wallis	W. W. Smith	James Yates

Among the early Patrons and Proprietors were the following, who, it will be seen, subscribed liberally to the new Society :—

Sir Robert Lawley, Bart., a valuable Collection of Casts.

	£
Lord Beauchamp	100
Sir Charles Mordaunt	100
H. Legge	100
D. S. Dugdale	100
Timothy Smith	50
F. Lawley	100
T. Lawrence	50
Edward Thomason	50
Samuel Galton	100
S. Tertius Galton	100
Hubert Galton	100
M. R. Boulton	100
James Taylor	100
Samuel Ryland	100
Mark Sanders	100

And thus the good work was set in motion. In the next chapter we shall be able to trace the progress of a Society which has been of incalculable benefit to the town.

THE BEGINNING OF THE GREAT POLITICAL AGITATION.

The most important event of this decade was the commencement of the great political agitation which produced the Political Union and ended in obtaining the Reform Bill of 1832. It was begun amid obloquy, opposition, and persecution, and had to endure many years of toil and suffering before success was obtained. For some time the public mind had been prepared for this agitation. In every town of importance Hampden Clubs had been formed, for the purpose of creating a demand for reform, and educating the people in politics. In February, 1817, the year in which the first New Hall Hill Meeting was held, the report of the secret committee of the House of Commons on the subject of these clubs was presented, and from the following extract we learn their organisation, and their object; and can readily understand how very terrible they must have appeared to the party of Church and King.

"The first thing which has here forced itself upon their observation is the widely diffused ramification of a system of clubs, associated professedly for the purpose of Parliamentary Reform, upon the most extended principle of universal suffrage and annual Parliaments. These clubs in general designate themselves by the same name of Hampden Clubs. On the professed object of their institution, they appear to be in communication and connexion with the club of that name in London.

"It appears to be part of the system of these clubs to promote an extension of clubs of the same name and nature so widely as, if possible, to include every village in the kingdom. The leading members are active in the circulation of publications likely to promote their

object. Petitions, ready prepared, have been sent down from the metropolis to all societies in the country disposed to receive them. The communication between these clubs takes place by the mission of delegates; delegates from these clubs in the country have assembled in London, and are expected to assemble again early in March. Whatever may be the real objects of these clubs in general, your Committee have no hesitation in stating, from information on which they place full reliance, that in far the greater number of them, and particularly in those which are established in the great manufacturing districts of Lancashire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire, and which are composed of the lower orders of artisans, nothing short of a Revolution is the object expected and avowed."

The first meeting on New Hall Hill was called under the auspices of the Birmingham Hampden Club, of which "A Mr. George Edmonds" was chairman. The High Bailiff refused to call the meeting, but it was held notwithstanding, and is the first of those New Hall Hill gatherings which have become so famous in our political history, and were ultimately attended with such great results. The beginning of this movement and the records of its earliest proceedings are full of interest, and will be read with pleasure by all Birmingham people. They form also a part, and that not an unimportant one, of the history of the nation, as Birmingham became the centre of a national movement, and was the soul of the agitation which produced so great a change in our constitution, and which has been attended with such beneficial consequences in the progress and development of the people. The first cry for Reform arose in the midst of dire distress, and although feeble at first, and almost lost in the clamour of opposition, it arose from every defeat stronger and stronger, until it was taken up by the vast majority of the nation and was irresistible, and a revolution was at last averted only by the ungracious yielding of a hostile and opposing House of Lords. The first effort of the Reformers was made in the following requisition :—

To the High Bailiff of Birmingham.

January 20, 1817.—Sir,—We, the undersigned inhabitants of Birmingham, conceiving it to be the indispensable duty of this town to declare to the Legislature the unexampled distress in which the people are involved, and to petition that every practicable Retrenchment in the National Expenditure may be made, as a mode of present alleviation, and that a Reform in the House of Commons be instituted without further delay, for restoring the Constitution to its pristine purity, as the best security against similar calamities in future, do request you to call an early meeting of the inhabitants, to take this subject into consideration.

[To which were affixed 63 respectable signatures.]

The High Bailiff having refused to comply with the above requisition, we, the undersigned inhabitants of Birmingham do invite our fellow townsmen to meet on Wednesday next, January 22, 1817, on the open ground to the left of St. Paul's Square, called Newhall Hill, to take into consideration the important objects of the requisition.

The chair will be taken at twelve o'clock.

Joseph Jones,	George East,	S. Lawrence,
Joseph Wareham,	John Bogle, jun.,	Joseph Luckcock,
E. Thompson,	Edmond Castle,	James Evans,
W. Hawkes Smith,	John Fellows,	Thomas Harrison,
W. N. Whitehouse,	Philip Barrington,	Charles Maddocks,
J. S. Retchley,	A. Simond,	Thomas Clarke,
John Hincks,	Thomas Wright,	George Barrs,
William Jennings,	George Cox,	W. Moore,
Thomas Amphlett,	Joseph Benson,	G. Edmonds,
Ralph Heaton, jun.,	P. Osborne,	George Ragg,
Edwin Hill,	Thomas Cox,	C. Whitworth,
James Bellis,	John Burton,	W. Bullock,
Isaac Smith,	Samuel Eve,	Samuel Burrell,
James Luckcock,	William Probin,	Samuel Bradley,
J. A. Wilkes,	James Harcourt,	S. Wainwright,
Joseph Willmore,	W. H. Wignall,	R. Lovatt,

and a great number of other respectable signatures.

The meeting was held, and is evidently alluded to in the *Gazette*, only because neighbouring and London prints had made it public. This is all that we have reported of our first New Hall Hill Meeting :—

January 27, 1817.—The proceedings of the meeting held upon New Hall Hill, on Wednesday last, for the purpose of petitioning the Legislature on the subject of the present distress, have, through the medium of the neighbouring and London prints, been so generally made public, that it becomes almost necessary to allude to them. The number of the populace attending, among whom were a great proportion of women and children, has been variously computed from 10,000 to 20,000; we should, however, consider the former as much nearer the actual amount than the latter. The speakers, consisting almost wholly of the members and supporters of the Hampden Club formed in this town, were elevated upon scaffolding at the bottom of the hill near the Parade, from whence they addressed the crowd. A Mr. Edmonds, chairman of the Club, was the principal speaker, and his address embraced the various topics usually discussed at similar meetings. The Petition was ordered to be presented to the House of Commons by Peter Moore and Joseph Butterworth, Esqs., members for Coventry. At the conclusion of the meeting the populace quietly dispersed to their homes. The Magistrates prudently caused the precaution of swearing in special constables to be adopted, lest the peace of the town should be disturbed. It is not, however, true, as has been stated, that the troops were brought from the barracks and quartered in the centre of the town; no such measure was considered necessary.

On January 28, the Prince Regent, on his way to open Parliament, was insulted by the populace, and fired at by one of the crowd. A requisition, signed by a large number of the inhabitants, was presented to the High Bailiff to call a meeting for the purpose of presenting an address on the occasion. From the report of the proceedings it is quite evident that the recent Reform Meeting had excited a strong opposition in the town :—

Feb. 3, 1817.—To John Turner, Esq., *High Bailiff of the Town of Birmingham.* We, the undersigned, request you will call a Meeting of the Magistrates, Gentry, Clergy, Merchants, Manufacturers, and other Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood of Birmingham, to take into consideration the propriety of presenting a dutiful and loyal address to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, expressive of our unalterable attachment to his illustrious house, and of our utter abhorrence of the late audacious and wicked assault upon his Royal Person, while exercising one of the most important functions of the Regal authority.

And also to enter into some Resolutions that may declare, that whilst we hold the right of Petitioning to be the undoubted privilege of Englishmen, we strongly deprecate any exercise of that right which in its consequences may lead to scenes of outrage and violence, and at the same time to express our firm determination to support the Constitution of this great and free Country as it has been transmitted to us from our forefathers.

Here follow the Signatures.

In compliance with the above highly respectable requisition, I do hereby appoint a Meeting of the Magistrates, Gentry, Clergy, Merchants, Manufacturers, and other Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood of Birmingham, to be holden at the Shakespear Room, in New Street, on Tuesday, the 11th instant, at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon. JOHN TURNER, *High Bailiff.*

The Chair to be taken at Twelve o'clock precisely.

The meeting was not allowed to pass without a protest. The reformers mustered in considerable strength and prevented the resolutions from being passed. The proceedings were thus commented on in the *Gazette* in an article which more nearly approaches that of a "leader" than anything we have yet met with in the paper :—

February 17, 1817.—We presume every friend of good order and peace amongst us must have viewed the transactions of the last week with deep concern, and have lamented that the artful misrepresentations of a few restless and designing individuals should have betrayed so large a portion of the manufacturing classes into conduct equally tumultuous and unjustifiable. Almost every neighbouring print which has this week reached us, contains some account of the events to which we alude ; but as the details are in many instances grossly incorrect, we conceive it our duty to present as full a report of the whole proceedings as our utmost limits will allow.—Our readers are aware that a meeting was to have taken

place on Tuesday last, for the purpose of considering an address to the Prince Regent, on the late atrocious attack upon his person, and to enter into resolutions declaratory of a determination to support the constitution of our country, and the just authority of the executive government. The principal promoters and actors at the late reform meeting, held in this town, thought proper to take offence at that part of the requisition which related to the subject of petitioning, and determined, by the most active exertions, to excite a spirit of opposition to the meeting. With this view, placards were posted up, inviting those who approved the late meeting, to attend and declare publicly, that while they cordially united in expressing their abhorrence at the outrage upon the Prince Regent, they had correct views of the privilege of petitioning, the exercise of which had been found, by uniform experience, not to lead to scenes of outrage and riot. Under this specious pretext was their real design masked—to prevent, if possible, a public expression of sentiment on the part of a great portion of the most respectable inhabitants—to prevent the exercise of a right which they had so recently contended for and enjoyed quietly and undisturbed by those who differed from them. We regret to say that they succeeded in collecting a numerous concourse of the working classes, who, thus instructed, were induced to imagine the object of the meeting inimical to their interests, and were persuaded to attend for the express purpose of interrupting the proceedings.

Agreeably to usual custom those persons who signed the requisition were invited previously to the hour of meeting, and attended in great numbers. At eleven the doors were opened to the public, when the crowd already assembled in the street, rushed in, in large and separate bodies, and the room was almost immediately filled. As soon as the principal movers in this disgraceful scene made their appearance, they were received with noisy expressions of approbation, and long before the hour appointed for the chair to be taken, loud and incessant cries of adjournment took place. In the midst of this tumult the High Bailiff attempted to open the business of the day. After repeated but ineffectual attempts to restore order and gain a hearing, he consented to adjourn to the balcony in front of the room, and, accompanied by a few of the gentlemen around him, proceeded thither, when finding it in vain attempting to be heard, from the tumult which still prevailed, he almost immediately dissolved the meeting.

The High Bailiff and the respectable part of the assembly soon afterwards retired. An attempt was then made by one of the most prominent characters among the disorderly, supported by his adherents, to take the chair, but finding themselves prevented from carrying their ulterior designs into effect there, they adjourned to the place of their former meeting (Newhall Hill) where a prepared address and resolutions were carried by the acclamations of between three and four thousand persons, and the former ordered to be presented *as the Address of the Town*, by the members of the Country. We understand the chairman has since set off to London to place the address in the hands of those Gentlemen.

We most willingly turn from this relation, and refer our readers, with the highest satisfaction, to the steps adopted by those of our fellow townsmen who were thus prevented from expressing their opinions in the usual and long established form, a detailed account of which will be found in our second page. We cannot conclude without being allowed to express our decided approbation of the firm and dignified, but temperate and conciliatory manner in which this unprecedented event has been met by those against whom it was directed. We most unequivocally coincide with the letter and the

spirit both of the declaration and resolutions, distinguishing as they do, the excited from the exciters, and directing the disapprobation and censure where it should fall—upon the heads of those who, without the least shadow of justice, persuaded their unwary and too credulous followers to oppose what in fact they were totally ignorant of. And we hope and confidently believe that their good sense will eventually prevail over the attempts to mislead them, and that they will at length recognize who in reality are their best friends.

The inhabitants of Birmingham have, in every time of need, done much to relieve the necessities of their poorer neighbours; and that relief has always, and we feel no doubt will always be thankfully received. It will be gratifying to the feelings of every individual to find that this spirit is known and acknowledged abroad. Without apology, or further remark, we subjoin an interesting extract relative to this town, from the number of the Quarterly Review, just published:—

"No town in the Kingdom is at this time experiencing such difficulty and distress as Birmingham, for this obvious reason, that no other place received so much direct employment from Government during the war. This great annual expenditure was suddenly withdrawn, and there are now nearly a fifth part of the population receiving weekly relief, the masters being no longer able to employ the men; very many indeed having been ruined themselves. This is a deplorable state of things, but it has not been occasioned by any misconduct or impolicy; it is the plain unavoidable consequence of events over which no man or body of men could have any control. In such a case what is to be done? Any man, who is not either a madman or a villain, must see that there is but one course—to mitigate the evil by giving as much temporary relief as possible till new means of subsistence can be provided, by opening new channels of employment. To this the inhabitants have applied themselves with a zealous liberality of which no example is to be found in other countries, and which perhaps has never been equalled in this. Every parish, every religious congregation of whatever description, has its Benevolent Society. There are subscriptions for providing soup, for blankets, for clothing, for coats, for the relief of the sick, for women in child-bed, for the wants of infancy. There are above a hundred guardians of the poor, who go through the town, which is divided into districts for their superintendance, and see where relief is wanted, what relief, and that it be properly employed. It is scarcely too much to affirm, that beneficence was never more liberally, more generally, or more strenuously employed, than it is at this time in Birmingham, where all who have anything to spare from their own necessities are doing whatever can be done by human and Christian charity, for the relief of those who are in need. And it is to the journeymen and poor of this town, at this time, that Mr. Cobbett addresses himself, seeking to irritate and inflame them by the most seditious language, and the most calumnious falsehoods, and telling them that they are 'coaxed and threatened with a *basin of carrion soup* in one hand, and a *halter* in the other.'"

The conveners of the meeting on the same day published the following statement:—

DECLARATION.

Public Office, Birmingham, February 12, 1817.—We, the undersigned Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood of Birmingham, having been prevented from proceeding with the Business of the Town's Meeting intended to have been held yesterday at the

Shakespear, by the tumultuous and disorderly conduct of a number of persons, who came into the room, apparently pre-instructed, to deprive us of the due exercise of that right which we possess in common with all our fellow subjects, of expressing our sentiments upon the situation of public affairs, and our determination to support the Constitution as transmitted to us by our forefathers, take this, the best course now left open to us, of declaring those sentiments; and we suggest to all the loyal and peaceable inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood the propriety of coming forward at this crisis with a solemn pledge to support our glorious Constitution against every attempt to weaken or overturn it, whatever may be the pretext under which that attempt is disguised, or whoever may be the persons by whom it is directed. And that we may enable the friends of peace, good order, and loyalty to judge of the spirit in which it was our wish to have proceeded on the 11th instant, had not disorder and tumult compelled the High Bailiff to dissolve the meeting, we here subjoin the Resolutions which were then intended to have been proposed for the consideration of that meeting.

It is with sentiments of deep regret we add that the circumstances which then took place oblige us now to withdraw a part of the third Resolution as inapplicable to the present state of this town. But though we cannot bear testimony to the order and good conduct of all our fellow townsmen, we hesitate not to express our firm belief that the disorder of which we complain was produced by the efforts and machinations of a few individuals only.

And while we lament the delusion under which the artless people, who were their instruments, appear to us to labour, we call upon all who by their character, station, or abilities may be supposed to possess an influence in the town and neighbourhood, to counteract these delusions, and to expose their authors to the merited scorn and contempt of the persons whom they have misled; for on the exertions of the well disposed in this necessary work depend the safety and welfare of every class, the prosperity of the poor as well as the rich, the comfort and happiness of the labourer as well as his employer.

The stain which the violence of a few persons has attached to our town and its vicinity may thus be removed, and we may re-assert that character for good order and loyalty which we are convinced the great majority of our population have never intentionally forfeited.

RESOLUTIONS,

Intended to have been proposed at the Town's Meeting at the Shakespear, on the 11th instant.

1. That while we hold the Right of Petitioning to be the undoubted and sacred Privilege of Englishmen, we most strongly deprecate the Exercise of it in any Way, and under any Pretence, which may lead to Scenes of Outrage and Violence.

2. That any Abuse of this Right may tend to deprive the People of their due Weight and Influence in the Constitution, by bringing the Right itself into Contempt, even when properly exercised.

3. That we consider the Right of Petitioning to have been, in some recent Instances, grossly abused; we have seen in the Metropolis Attempts too successfully made, under the specious pretext of its exercise, to inflame the Minds of a suffering and unemployed Population, by Means the most insiduous, by Assertions the most false, and by Statements the most unfounded; but while we advert with Sentiments of deep Regret to the Effect which has thus been produced in the Metropolis, we have great Satisfaction in bearing

Testimony to the orderly and peaceable Demeanour of the Inhabitants of this Town and Neighbourhood, and we are most confident that every Endeavour which may be made to seduce the Population of Birmingham and its Vicinity from their acknowledged Loyalty will fail.

4. Impressed with a deep Sense of the glorious Privileges, we pledge ourselves individually and collectively to support the just Authority of the executive Government, and to resist every Attempt which may be directed against the Constitution as transmitted to us from our Ancestors.

The meeting was held at the Public Office on the following day, February 12, the High Bailiff in the Chair. A declaration was read, adopted, and signed; an address to the Prince Regent was also passed, and the resolutions "intended" to have been proposed at the Shakespear; the High Bailiff, Rev. Dr. Outram, Isaac Spooner, S. T. Galton, George Barker, and the Rev. J. H. Spry, were appointed a committee to carry them into effect. This additional resolution was also passed :—

Resolved unanimously,—That this Meeting conceive it to be their Duty to reprobate in the strongest Terms the Insult offered Yesterday to the High Bailiff, and at the same Time to express their Thanks for his temperate and dignified Conduct in the Chair, under Circumstances hitherto unprecedented in this Town.

And thus ended the first act of our great political agitation.

The year 1818 was scarcely marked by any political agitation, but in 1819 the Liberal party had grown in strength, and took a bold and decisive step in asserting their right to be represented. At a meeting held on New Hall Hill, on Monday, July 12, they elected Sir Charles Wolseley as their "Legislatorial Attorney and Representative." As this is one of the most important and interesting of all the public acts in which the Birmingham people had yet engaged, and in the course of a few years almost produced a revolution in the kingdom, and compelled the passing of one of those laws which form an epoch in a nation's history, it will be desirable to dwell a little more fully upon an agitation which at its commencement was assailed with the most virulent opposition; cradled in obloquy, reared amid persecution, and at last crowned with the most triumphant success. The feeling of the nation, that is the well-to-do and respectable part of the nation, is clearly reflected in the following contemporary report of this famous meeting :—

Meeting at Newhall Hill.

July 19, 1819.—"Birmingham," says a London paper, "has commenced the work of reform in a very simple, and it must be confessed, complete way. In one moment a public meeting invested the town with the right of sending a Member to Parliament; and without waiting for the Speaker's writ, or any other old-fashioned process, nominated and elected Sir Charles Wolseley to that honour." This *farcical* result of the proceedings at Newhall Hill, on Monday last, has, before this, found its way to every corner in the kingdom. The character and station of the individuals with whom these proceedings originated and were carried into action, are not, however, quite so well known at a distance; it therefore becomes our duty, in alluding to the meeting, to assist in the development of this necessary part of the subject. For some time past the class of worthies amongst us, self-styled "Reformers," have threatened the inhabitants with an assemblage of the populace, for the purpose of taking the work of reform into their own hands, by choosing a Representative, and instructing him forthwith to demand a seat as a member of the Commons House of Parliament by virtue of such appointment; but whether the postponement of the important day was owing to *schism*, which it is notorious had arisen between the principal mover of the party and those of his adherents who considered he had too soon forgotten the terms of equal fellowship upon which they set out in their *Quixotic* determination to amend the State—to the want of some person weak enough to allow himself to be proposed by them—or that they purposely chose to defer the meeting until the close of the Session, by which the object of their choice might have the full benefit of the recess to enjoy his nobly-acquired honour, or, if necessary, to whet his courage and prepare for the charge at the next assembling of the Parliament—we know not. The delay, however, appeared to become offensive to some of the party, and their complaints, by placing his influence and importance among his brethren in jeopardy, at length roused their leader from an apparent desertion of his post; they even threatened to undertake the necessary business without his aid; this had the desired effect, and preparations for an immediate meeting became evident. Placards, signed "George Edmonds," on behalf of the requisitionists, were exhibited, appointing the day, and announcing the expected attendance of Sir C. Wolseley, Major Cartwright, Wooler, and others—without the advantage of whose names, by way of decoy, we are disposed to think the attempt to raise a numerous assemblage would have failed. The names and description of the promoters of the meeting, as handed by themselves to the Clerk of the Peace for the County, are as follows:—

George Edmonds, Proprietor of the Weekly Recorder and Saturday's Advertiser, Church Street; Charles Maddocks, Pawnbroker, Lionel Street; Timothy Massey, Carpenter, Canal Street; William Harcourt, Brassfounder, Loveday Street; Robert Harcourt, Brassfounder, Staniforth Street; George Cox, Measuring-tape Maker, Martin Street; and Joseph Allcock, Butcher, High Street.

In compliment, we suppose to the old Major and his worthy companion Wooler, the business of the day was announced to commence with a procession from the lodgings of the former to the place of meeting. An open hackney chariot was accordingly provided, and the Major, Wooler, Lewis (a schoolmaster, formerly of this town, but now of Coventry), and Edmonds being stowed therein, it moved forward, accompanied by two banners, and preceded and followed by a numerous concourse of persons. The *Committee* were to have walked in procession after the carriage, but the impossibility

of suitably distinguishing them from the crowd being too evident, the project was abandoned, and we conclude they moved pell-mell with the rest. On reaching the place of meeting, about three o'clock, Edmonds was called to the chair. His opening speech was followed by one from a schoolmaster, named Maddocks, who lately succeeded to the school deserted by his predecessor, Edmonds, for the more lucrative trade of politics. A letter was read from Sir Charles Wolseley, expressive of his inability to attend in consequence of the recent death of his mother. Various resolutions were then moved, followed by a long and wordy "Complaint and Remonstrance" of the Cartwright school, the length and extreme dryness of which evidently tried the patience of the meeting. The reading and adoption of this document was succeeded by resolutions, declaring the determination of the meeting to put their rights of election at issue by returning some individual in whom they could confide as their Legislatorial Attorney and Representative, and in whose person they might try the question of their right to Parliamentary Representation; also determining that Sir Charles Wolseley be so elected, and that he be instructed to claim, by letter to the Speaker, admission into the House of Commons as a member, as well as to communicate on the occasion the resolve of the meeting, to be by the said Speaker laid before the House; and in the event of his being acknowledged and received as their representative, he is to use his utmost endeavours to secure to them an annual election of Legislatorial Representatives by ballot, and to move for the adoption of Major Cartwright's "Bill of Rights and Liberties;" but in a contrary event the resolutions wisely provide that Sir Charles is to obtain a proper manuscript draft of the bill, and use his utmost influence to have it proposed to Parliament by some other member. The show of hands in favour of Sir Charles's nomination was followed by a partial cry of "another member" by those immediately around the hustings. Whether the additional honour they wished to confer was intended for Major Cartwright, Wooler, or Edmonds did not appear. The cry, however, subsided without apparently being observed by the speakers, and passed off without notice. This important part of the proceedings being settled, and Edmonds (as Chairman), Major Cartwright, and Wooler being deputed to wait upon Sir Charles with the determination of the meeting, they were further addressed by Lewis (who, it will be recollected, appeared at the late Stockport meeting as the friend of Sir Charles Wolseley), and afterwards by Wooler. Thanks were then voted to the two strangers for their attendance; and the poor Major, whose spectral form had remained almost motionless during the whole of the proceedings, rose and bowed his thanks to the crowd, who in turn testified their respect by taking off their hats while he remained on his legs. The speeches, with the exception of Wooler's, displayed little of novelty. The full catalogue of political grievances was detailed, and the expedients resorted to declared to be the only plan which could be recommended to them as promising redress. Wooler, in the course of his harangue, observed that their petitions had hitherto been easily disposed of, but that by embodying the principle, and sending up Sir Charles Wolseley instead of the petition, the task of the honourable House would not be quite so easy. "They will not," he added, "be able to lay Sir Charles so quietly upon the table nor under the table. They can direct the Sergeant-at-Arms to take him out of the House, but what are they to do with him afterwards? If they liberate him, he can return; if they argue with him, he can confute them. Like the spirit of Banquo to the conscience of Macbeth, he will certainly haunt them with his presence. And when you have placed him at your head, this at least we know, that you will not suffer his enemies and yours to remove him from his situation: where

you place him you will protect him." It is really lamentable to see crowds of well-disposed persons listening to such absurd, and at the same time dangerous, doctrine as this. Its mischevous disseminators *well know* that they are urging the pursuit of an unattainable object.

Not a single individual, resident or holding a respectable situation in society, took a prominent share in the day's proceedings; and this, we are told, excited chagrin and disappointment to the old Major, who had considered things here to be upon a different footing. The muster of *native reforming* talent on the hustings also appeared unusually deficient. The number of persons present has been variously and widely computed, some rating them at fifteen, and others ascending to thirty, forty, and even fifty thousand; perhaps if estimated at from twenty to twenty-five thousand it would be nearer the actual result. The novelty of the exhibition and the object of meeting, considered in connexion with the great number of workmen who, we are sorry to say, can at present obtain but partial employment in our various manufactories, will account for the extraordinary number of persons attending; a very large proportion of those present we are, however, sure would gladly have preferred the pursuit of their usual occupations to an unprofitable attendance of several hours at such a meeting. At the conclusion of the proceedings, about six o'clock, the crowd quietly dispersed towards home; the chariot of the speakers was accompanied into town by a numerous concourse, and when disburthened of its load, those composing the escort also quietly separated.

We have the most confident reliance upon the good principles and conduct of the working population of Birmingham; we are therefore not afraid that the visionary schemes of the weak, or the malevolent designs of bad, men will tempt them to stray far from the track which prudence and a proper attention to the interests of themselves and their families teach them is the best and safest course to pursue; they may listen to, and perhaps be persuaded to give their assent to, public measures speciously recommended to their belief as calculated to better their condition in times of general adversity and trial, but when convinced either of their absurdity, or, that to be attained, it must be at the sacrifice of principle, and of obedience to the laws of their country, we feel assured their support will be indignantly refused to any measures of the kind, by whomsoever they may be recommended or enforced.

In the same paper we also find the following paragraph :—

July 19, 1819.—Sir C. Wolseley, it since appears, has accepted the office of *Legislatorial Attorney and Representative*, conferred upon him by the late meeting at Newhall Hill. He is said to express himself as having no doubt of their right to send members to the House of Commons; and while grateful for the obligation, he is filled with apprehension lest the responsibilities of the appointment should exceed his power of performance. He however promises his best exertions in contending for their electoral rights, and derives gratification from the understanding that a disposition prevails in other great towns to follow the example; each selecting one person through whose means they are to join in trying the question. It remains to be seen whether any, and what description of companions, Sir Charles will meet with in the precious task he has undertaken. By those who contend for the honour of being his constituents, he is already publicly styled M.P.

The Government at once took alarm: and a Proclamation against seditious assemblies was published, in which the New Hall Hill Meeting

had the honour of being specially alluded to. We need not quote the Proclamation, but the following paragraph referring to it may find a place :—

August 2, 1819.—Our Post of this day contains a Proclamation issued by command of the Prince Regent, adverting to the various Seditious Assemblies throughout the manufacturing districts of the Kingdom—to those for the election of *pseudo Representatives* to Parliament—and to the Seditious Publications on every hand so industriously thrown into circulation ; it then calls upon all loyal subjects to refrain from and discourage such illegal proceedings ; and commands Magistrates and persons in authority to make the most diligent enquiry, in order to bring to punishment those persons who have been, or may be, guilty of offences of the kind. The late meeting at New Hall Hill, it will be seen, is particularly alluded to in the Proclamation ; and the proceedings there entered into by a few evil and discontented spirits, and by them impudently disseminated as the deliberate act of the population of the town at large, are designated as a *gross violation of the law*. The Proclamation, we should hope, will give a useful admonitory caution to Sir Charles Wolseley, as connected with the result of that meeting.

The passage referring to the Birmingham Meeting is thus worded :—

And whereas it hath been represented unto us that at one of such meetings the persons there assembled, in gross violation of the law, did attempt to constitute and appoint, and did, as much as in them lay, constitute and appoint, a person then nominated, to sit in their name and in their behalf in the Commons House of Parliament ; and there is reason to believe that other meetings are about to be held for the like unlawful purpose.

The advisers of the crown were foolish enough to invoke the law against the leaders of this meeting. At the Warwick Spring Assizes a bill of indictment was found by the Grand Jury against Major Cartwright and Wooler, George Edmonds and Charles Maddocks, of this town, and W. G. Lewis, of Coventry, "for conspiring (at the Newhall Hill meeting) to elect and return, without lawful authority, Sir Charles Wolseley, Bart., as a member to represent the inhabitants of Birmingham in the Commons House of Parliament."

The indictment was removed by *certiorari* into the Court of King's Bench, and was to come on for trial at the next Warwick Assizes in the *Nisi Prius* Court. The defendants had all given bail to appear and plead to the charge in the King's Bench next term. The question was thus brought to issue ; "and," says the local chronicler, "we trust these daring innovators will be taught that the laws of the country are not to be violated with impunity. They affect to rejoice that the affair has taken this course, and we are sure every real lover of peace and of his

country will for once coincide with them in the expression of a similar feeling of satisfaction."

The audiences at the Theatre appear to have been loyal at this time. The little incident recorded in the next paragraph is not without its significance :—

August 23, 1819.—We cannot allow ourselves to pass over unnoticed, an enthusiastic display of feeling which was so irresistibly elicited during the performance. We allude to the effect produced by a passage admirably delivered by POPE, commencing "Perhaps some loyal hearts may yet be found." The sentence thus far had hardly escaped his lips, when the walls of the theatre resounded from every part with one of the most astounding and long-continued bursts of applause we have ever heard. Another passage, "We would reign undisturbed by civil war," drew forth a second display of the same loyal and most welcome expression of feeling.

The following curious letter of one of the earliest and best friends of popular education, when that object could not boast too many, is characteristic of the man and the time :—

TO THE PUBLIC.

September 27, 1819.—From my known extreme reluctance to public business, and more especially to that description of it so well understood by the term Political, I had hoped to pass unnoticed by the meeting held last Thursday, on Newhall Hill. I had no hand whatever in the two last Town's Meetings, not having even seen either Sir C. Wolseley or Mr. Wooler, during the whole of their stay in town ; yet has an appeal been made to my principles by the unanimous voice of my fellow-townsmen. Let me not be upbraided with their being the "riff-raff and scum of society." Wherever I see human being I recognise the image of God, and however meanly he may be clad, he has a claim on my good-will and fellowship. Let his conduct be correct, and I stop not to ask what cash he has in his pocket, before I shall decide if he be entitled to civility or to contempt. I therefore beg leave to state, that I sincerely sympathise with the lower class in their privations and sufferings. A vast portion of the great mass of our population is now working from twelve to fifteen hours a day for the miserable pittance of one shilling—I appeal to our Parliamentary Reports for the truth of the allegation—and even this wretched earning cannot always be obtained, through the want of employment. Is this, or is it not, sufficient cause of complaint? And if they sometimes err in the mode of seeking redress, with whom lies the reproach? with those whose wants drive them to use such means as their knowledge affords—or those who, pretending to know better, at the same time refuse their assistance, protection, and advice? Whoever tells them that their distresses are temporary, and that it is out of the power of human means to grant present relief, are uttering the foullest libel on the bounty of Providence. The physical resources of nature, and the energies of man, if properly employed, might convert our miserable country into a comparative Eden—but alas ! what has been attempted?

The late proceedings at Manchester appear to me so perfectly atrocious, anti-christian —so outrageous to every feeling of honour and humanity—so subversive of social order,

and of every moral duty—and so directly opposed to every principle of law and of justice —that I should think it culpable to withhold my humble sanction from the subscription proposed on behalf of the surviving sufferers. If my name will be of service, I willingly lend it, though I am unable to use that exertion in the cause to which I think it so well entitled.

Whatever subscriptions may be deposited in my hands, I hope I need not pledge my word for their faithful appropriation.

St. Paul's, Sep. 23, 1819. JAMES LUCKCOCK.

With a liberality which has always characterised the *Gazette* in opening its columns to correspondents who differ most widely from its principles, the above letter was printed. The Editor, however, entered this polite but decided protest against its opinions :—

In another part of our impression of this day is an address to the public from a respectable inhabitant of the town, which we cannot allow to go forth through the medium of our columns without at the same time expressing our dissent from the various assumptions and unqualified opinions it contains.

In August occurred the fatal attack by the Yeomanry on the meeting at Manchester, which has ever since been known by the name of the "Peterloo Massacre." The result of this cruel and shameful act was to excite the indignation of the reformers throughout the country. At Birmingham another Newhall Hill meeting was held, of which the *Gazette* gives us a report interspersed with the editor's comments and reflections :—

MEETING AT NEWHALL HILL.

Sept. 27, 1819.—The lamentable result of the late Manchester meeting has served the purpose of temporarily relieving the reforming body of this town from the awkard dilemma into which their former precipitation and over-anxious zeal had betrayed them. But for the consequences which, to the disquiet of this *patriot band*, are likely to arise out of their last proceedings, a succession of public meetings would, in all probability, have been attempted, in the hope of further cajoling and disturbing the minds of our honest and unsuspecting townsmen. Desirous, however, as they must have been to stand fair in the eyes of their fraternity at a distance, and equally aware of the effects of leaving those who had been induced to listen to them to their own reflection and good sense, every idea of a public assembly to renew the discussion of reform must have been palsied by a fearful anticipation of what might yet result from their former meeting. Without, therefore, incurring the danger of rendering themselves further amenable to the laws of their country, they could not pursue the question with any degree of consistency, and at the same time to any purpose. In this state of difficulty a meeting, ostensibly to consider the Manchester proceedings, offered an opportunity, too precious to be neglected, of again drawing our populace from their homes and occupations, and of renewing, through another medium, the endeavour to excite hostility to the present order of things. Specious, however, as the plan may have been, and great as appeared the desire to get up the business with suitable

eclat, we are confident the result must have totally disappointed its projectors; they will have discovered, to there mortification and dismay, that a very large proportion of those who formerly attended their harangues are now become both indifferent to them and their speeches, and are no longer disposed to consume their time and attention in a pursuit so unprofitable.

A fearful misgiving as to the attendance at the meeting was evident from the unusual pains taken to convene it. Sir Charles Wolseley and Wooler were summoned, but the former alone attended. Shortly before three o'clock Sir Charles, accompanied by Russell, Lewis (the Coventry schoolmaster) and Edmonds, made his appearance in the ground in a *mourning coach*, "*as a token of sympathy and compassion*," and immediately ascended the scaffold, the front of which was hung with black cloth. Edmonds was then called to the chair, and proceeded to address the crowd; his speech from beginning to end, was a tissue of misrepresentation, and of invective against Government, the Manchester authorities, and the Yeomanry. He was followed by Sir Charles, who stated that he had refused to take the chair from *prudential motives*, having a prosecution already hanging over his head, and on that account he begged they would excuse him; he then briefly adverted to the professed object of the meeting, and concluded by exhibiting a drawing of a column or a pillar, which he assured his hearers he meant to erect in his park at Wolseley, in "commemoration of the brave reformers who fell on the 16th of August;" it was intended to be forty feet high, and would be placed in a situation to overlook the road leading to Manchester. The resolutions, little differing from others which have preceded them, were then proposed by Russell, who was followed by Lewis and a new orator named Lakins. Thanks were then voted to the chairman, and the crowd quietly separated about half-past five. The mourning coach which conveyed the speakers from the field was escorted by numerous followers to town.

The number of persons present was certainly far below any former assemblage on the same spot, notwithstanding the attendance of a numerous concourse from all parts of the surrounding country, who, it being market day, were thus enabled to obtain a sight of Sir Charles Wolseley, an important personage of whom they had heard so much of late. The proceedings went off very flatly; a large portion of the crowd appeared wholly inattentive to the speakers, and the applause which accompanied their harangues was but partial, even amongst those who were more immediately around the hustings.

The *Lichfield Mercury*, in giving an account of the meeting, states, that during Sir Charles's speech, "The discharge of ordnance was heard at a distance, and the roll of a drum, which agitated the outskirts of the people—supposed to be a trick of the authorities, a very foolish one—to try the nerves of the meeting. The great body stood firm, on the defensive, and we are told that not less than from six to eight thousand had armed themselves with pistols, in case they should be attacked." It is true a portion of the crowd became alarmed at some noise which was heard from a distance, and a cry in consequence that soldiers were approaching caused for a few moments considerable confusion, but it soon subsided. The supposition that a discharge of ordnance took place by direction of the Magistrates is too absurd to need contradiction; and the report that a large body of the crowd were armed with pistols, we have no hesitation in declaring to be a gross calumny.

We have before expressed our decided conviction, that every attempt to alienate the minds of our townsmen from that attachment and allegiance to the Government of their country, which has ever characterized them, must ultimately fail; and that the great body

are, and will continue firm and hearty supporters of that authority under which they and their families have been protected. Every day serves to strengthen this conviction; and we have frequently an opportunity of observing a high tone of national pride and feeling involuntarily bursting forth into action. A most striking instance again occurred at our Theatre on Saturday night—a single voice from the gallery demanding "*God save the King*," occasioned an instantaneous re-echo from almost every voice, the performers appeared, and the air was sung, the audience standing and not only joining in the chorus, but actually interposing the most enthusiastic cheers between each distinct sentiment; when finished an universal *encore* succeeded, and it was again sung, accompanied by the audience with, if possible, increased feeling.

The Reformers were not the only party who petitioned and sent up addresses. The opposition was active; and on October 18, we read as follows :—

A Declaration, of which the following is a copy, is now in the course of signature in this town. It has already received the names of a great number of the inhabitants, and in the course of a few days, will, no doubt, obtain a very powerful accession.

"We, the undersigned inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Birmingham, being fully convinced that the welfare and prosperity of this great and free Country will ever depend, under Providence, upon the steady attachment of all classes of his Majesty's subjects to the Laws and Government of the Realm; and having seen with deep concern and anxiety the attempts of designing and desperate individuals to excite a spirit of discontent and disloyalty, Do hereby solemnly declare our unaltered and unalterable attachment to our present happy constitution, and our determination to uphold the same as by law established to the utmost of our power. And we engage that we will, at all times, as in duty bound, endeavour to maintain the public peace; and that we will exert ourselves to detect and bring to justice all who may attempt, by seditious and inflammatory writings or speeches, to create disaffection to the established authorities, and thereby endanger the security and happiness of our Country. And we call upon all those who value the *real liberty* which they now enjoy, and have any regard for the welfare of their families, or the protection of their property, to stand forward and co-operate with us in such measures as may appear necessary for the preservation of the Country from the destruction with which it may be otherwise overwhelmed by the unrestrained violence of some turbulent individuals."

The pen and the pulpit also joined in resisting the Radicals. The Rev. E. Burn, minister of St. Mary's Chapel, delivered and published a sermon entitled, "A Word for my King, my Country, and my God." Another political brochure bore this curious title :—"A few Words to my Neighbours, by Joe Shrewd the Die-sinker; with a copy of a new Song, called the Radical Dandy." The effect of these lucubrations was the organising of a Constitutional Society. A meeting was held on Tuesday, November 9th, the result of which was the "formation of a society for the refutation and supression of blasphemy and sedition, and

for the support of the civil power and established authorities. A subscription has been opened for the purposes of the association, which, it is to be hoped, will be countenanced by the friends of Christianity both in the town and neighbourhood."

This month was distinguished by another political prosecution :—

Nov. 8, 1819.—On Monday last, George Ragg, a shopkeeper in Bull Street, in this town, was apprehended under a warrant issued by our magistrates, for selling a number of "The Republican," a blasphemous work still publishing by Carlile. He was detained in custody at our prison in Moor Street, until Wednesday, when, not being able to procure two sureties of £50 each, for his appearance at the assizes, he was conveyed to the county gaol at Warwick. This man's shop has long been notorious as a mart for the sale of the most noxious publications of the day, and we are glad to find that it has at length been brought under the observance of our legal authorities. Should similar publications continue to be exposed for sale in other situations, we trust such information as may lead to the suppression of their farther circulation will not be wanting.

The next extract gives us a curious picture of the times :—

Nov. 22, 1819.—A strong muster of the "Radicals" of this town took place yesterday (Sunday) morning, for the purpose of marching in a body to church. About the usual time of assembling, from three to four hundered of these deluded men passed through the streets in procession to Christ Church, and took possession of a great portion of the free sittings in the body of the place, to the exclusion of the regular attendants. Their appearance excited some degree of alarm among the females usually attending, many of whom returned home, while others, having heard of their intention, kept away altogether. After the morning service, the Minister, the Rev. J. H. Spry, most appropriately preached a forcible and impressive sermon from 1 St. Peter ii. 13 :—"*Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake.*" Their behaviour during service was not marked by any direct or open impropriety, but at the instant of its conclusion their motives for appearing there became manifest by their simultaneously rising, putting on their hats, and marching out of church covered. This insulting movement, if meant to distinguish themselves from those immediately around them, was altogether unnecessary, for the serious attention of the regular hearer to the exhortations of the minister was too evident to allow of his being mistaken for one of them.

On December 13 we are told that the signatures of upwards of 4,500 inhabitants of the town and its neighbourhood were then affixed to the loyal declaration. Next week we have the other side of the shield :—

December 20, 1819.—A most inflammatory hand-bill, bearing the name of Ragg, of Bull Street, in this town, as printer, and signed by a man calling himself Chairman of the Union Society, made its appearance in our streets last week. As it contained a direct incitement to acts of insurrection and rebellion, our magistrates took immediate cognizance of it; a warrant was forthwith issued, and the author, Charles Whitworth, is for the present in safe custody at our prison. He is expected to be brought up for examination to day.

The year 1819 closed with another political prosecution :—

December 27, 1819.—Whitworth, Chairman of the Union Society in this Town, was, on Tuesday last, bailed for his appearance at the sessions, himself in 200*l.* and two sureties of 100*l.* each, to answer to an indictment charging him as the author of a seditious and inflammatory address lately posted in our streets.

The prosecutions went on ; and on April 3, 1820, we have these brief records of the trials at the Warwick Spring assizes :—

The King *v.* Osborne.—This indictment tried by four special jurymen and eight talesmen, was next proceeded in. The defendant, lately a pamphlet vender, of Union Street, in this town, was charged in the indictments with having sold the 12th number of a publication, called "The Black Book," which contained a wicked and malicious libel on the established religion of the country, the Book of Common Prayer, &c., &c. The prosecution was ably conducted by Mr. Clarke, who proved the purchase of the book by himself, in two instances. The defence was undertaken by Mr. Denman, who, having made a legal objection which was overruled by his Lordship, addressed the jury in an eloquent and ingenious speech on behalf of the defendant. The learned Counsel's remarks were however most pointedly replied to by the Judge, and a verdict of *guilty* was immediately declared. His Lordship, in the course of his observations to the jury, insisted most distinctly, that venders of publications were bound to know and answer for the contents of every work they sell, and in consequence equally liable with the original publisher to prosecution, and to punishment, should they be convicted of desseminating seditious or blasphemous productions.

. . . . . .

The first cause that came on was the King *v.* George Ragg, late of Bull Street, in this town, also for publishing the 12th number of the Black Book. Mr. Serjeant Vaughan briefly stated the case, and said the only questions to be decided were, whether the libel tended to produce the mischief imputed to the defendant, and secondly, whether it was maliciously published by him, knowing that it contained such a libel. He reminded the jury, that although the defendant might not have sold the libel himself, yet he was still guilty of a criminal act if it were sold under his authority. The book having been proved in evidence to have been purchased of a female at his shop, Mr. Denman made the same legal objection as in Osborne's case, relative to the non-production of proof as to the existence of the Catechism described in the indictment ; or of the existence of any public office regulating the ordination of priests, against which formularies the defendant was said to have committed a libel. The objection was again overruled by the bench and the learned Counsel proceeded. The questions remaining for consideration, he said, were whether the defendant had published the alleged libel, and whether, having done so, he did it with a malicious intent. Now by the evidence for the prosecution, it was admitted that the defendant was not in Birmingham for a fortnight within the time the book was sold. If the book was sold by the defendant's servant, she ought to have been produced before them. No fact of the proof of the publication had been made ; and although he was not disposed to quarrel with the Birmingham Association for suppressing libellous publications, yet he thought the posecution of miserable men who merely sold the pamphlets, for which the authors remained unpunished, was deeply to be regretted. He thought the libel of little importance, and not so dangerous as had been stated, and the

case was altogether made up of presumptions, and certainly did not warrant them in finding a verdict of guilty.

Mr. Justice Best, after recapitulating the evidence, combating the points adduced by the learned Counsel with some force, observed that if a man allowed a work to be published by his servants he was answerable for it. It was the same with booksellers as with proprietors of newspapers, who frequently resided at a distance from their establishments, and were yet liable to every act committed by the persons they employed. The object of the work before them most clearly was not to instruct, but to disgrace; not to convince us of error, but to lessen the respect of the lower classes for religion, and weaken their hopes of its consolation hereafter. If the same attack had been made on any sect or establishment of Christians it would be open to the same animadversion. He was a friend to toleration, and was one of those who would always defend every sect from calumnious and gross attacks. His Lordship concluded by observing, that he thought the libel in question calculated to produce the most pernicious effects, and one which called for the interference of the jury to arrest its progress. The jury consulted together for a few minutes, and then brought in a verdict of guilty on the first count of the indictment.

George Edmonds was tried for libel at the same Assize. The trial excited considerable interest at the time; and is a curious episode in the life of our early and energetic Reformer:—

April 3, 1820.—Action for Libel: Spurrier *v.* George Edmonds.—This cause stood for Thursday, but on that day the defendant, who it was understood meant to plead in person, put in an affidavit, stating that his solicitor, Mr. Pearson, who was in possession of his papers and documents, had not arrived from York, and requested it might be postponed until the following day, which was granted. On its being called on the next morning, the defendant again presented himself to the Judge, and begged for further delay; he was allowed until the termination of the next cause, and expressed himself content. However when the trial commenced he vehemently protested against the proceedings, and abruptly left the Court, declaring he should wash his hands of the cause. Mr. Reader opened the pleadings by stating that it was a slanderous libel, published by the defendant, who resided in Union-street, Birmingham, against Mr. Spurrier, a respectable attorney of the same place. Mr. Serjeant Vaughan read the libel to the jury, commenting upon the various parts, and insinuations contained in it, as he proceeded. He observed that it did not require much exertion to impress on the minds of the jury the slander it was impregnated with. Mr. Spurrier had been employed nearly thirty years as an agent for the Bank of England, and the unpleasant part of his duty was to collect depositions against persons who had committed forgeries on the above establishment. In 1802 a person of the name of Allen was executed on Washwood Heath, for forgery; and the allusion in the libel was that he (Mr. Spurrier) had reaped a harvest of glory on that occasion, from the declaration said to have been made by Allen, that he had been sacrificed by Mr. Spurrier, who had procured his conviction by spies and informers in order to obtain the blood-money. The defendant might have justified if he had thought proper; this, however, he had declined. He could not state the extent of injury done to the plaintiff by such a foul libel, circulated against him among his neighbours and where he resided. The jury, he trusted, would weigh the case well, and give such damages as would completely vindicate the character of his client.

The evidence having been gone through—by which the admission of Mr. Spurrier as an attorney of the Court—the acknowledgment of the defendant to Mr. Ingleby, Mr. Spurrier's partner, of his being the author of the libel—the agency of Mr. Spurrier to the Bank Solicitors—the conviction and execution of Allen, &c., were proved, the learned Judge addressed the jury to the following effect :—"Gentlemen, the defendant having retired from the Court, it now becomes my duty to state the nature of this action for your consideration. It is an action brought by Mr. Spurrier, an attorney, for a most slanderous libel, published against him by Edmonds, but concerning which Mr. Ingleby had nothing to do. The principal part of the sting of the libel is contained in the observations, which state, that Mr. Spurrier does not practice in the court of public opinion—where acts are looked to instead of precedents, and in which men are practitioners, instead of spies and seekers after blood-money. Mr. Spurrier has the satisfaction, perhaps the best that can be obtained, in thus vindicating his character. In a civil action the defendant has an opportunity of proving the truth ; but the plaintiff has gained all that an honest man could wish, by braving in a Court of justice the assertion made by the defendant, of his having employed spies and also procuring blood-money, The defendant has not put upon the record any plea ; and perhaps he could not have done better than by not defending himself. The plaintiff had also the satisfaction he desired in rescuing his character from the attacks of so foul a libel. There was not the least pretence to enquire into the character of the plaintiff, and that was the reason he had stopped the learned counsel in attempting such enquiry. The jury would say, by their verdict, as to what damages the plaintiff was entitled, but moderate damages would compensate, as the vindication of his character, no doubt, was the principal object. It, however, should be recollected that the plaintiff belonged to the profession of the Law, and it was a most serious imputation against such a person being concerned in taking away the life of a fellow creature. If such a charge was not unjust, he would be unworthy to remain a moment longer in that profession. The libel had been completely made out, they would therefore fairly take into their consideration all the circumstances of the case, and award such damages as they thought just."

The jury were in consultation about a quarter of an hour, and returned a verdict for the plaintiff, with two hundred pounds damages, and forty shillings costs.

Before separating, the Grand Jury adopted the following resolution :—

"We, the Grand Jury of the county of Warwick, assembled at the Lent Assizes, being convinced that the dissemination of blasphemous and seditious publications is dangerous to the morals of the people and fatal to every religious principle, beg to recommend most earnestly to all persons to whom any such mischievous work may be offered for sale or otherwise, to possess themselves of the same, and to give immediate information thereof to the nearest constable, in order that the distributor may be brought as soon as possible before a magistrate. The Grand Jury are the more anxious to impress this recommendation on the attention of their countrymen, because they think that a zealous co-operation of all classes of his Majesty's loyal subjects is absolutely necessary to the suppression of so subtle and pernicious an evil."

The following extracts are illustrative of the repressive acts of the Government; they also show that Birmingham had men willing to suffer for the cause of Reform :—

April 17, 1820.—Easter Quarter Sessions for this county commenced on Monday, and concluded on Thursday at noon. On the Wednesday Richard Mansfield was found guilty of unlawfully selling in this town a seditious publication, called "An Address to the Reformers," and sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, and to find sureties, himself in £100 and two in £20.

May 8, 1820.—George Ragg and John Osborne, convicted at our last county assizes of publishing the twelfth number of the "Black Book," were a few days since conveyed from Warwick Gaol, and delivered to the Tipstaf of the King's Bench Prison, where they at present await the judgment of the Court

July 31, 1820.—It will be seen by our Parliamentary report this week that a paper, signed by George Edmonds, late of radical notoriety here, and falsely purporting to be "the complaint, remonstrance, and petition of the inhabitants of Birmingham," was presented by Alderman Wood to the House of Commons on Tuesday last. Unfortunately for members who were absent when this precious document was read, the worthy Alderman's motion to have it printed was immediately rejected. By several of the members present it was declared to be too much to expect that such nonsense, virulence, and slander should be allowed to be printed.

The most important political event of this decade was the

Trial for Conspiracy.

Aug. 7, 1820.—This cause, which has excited so much public interest came on before the Lord Chief Baron on Thursday morning, and continued until late on the following night. From the great length of the trial it is impossible for us to attempt more than a very brief outline of the proceedings, which we shall conclude with the learned Judge's address to the Jury.

His Lordship took his seat at nine o'clock, and soon after the defendants, John Cartwright, George Edmonds, Thomas Jonathan Wooler, William G. Lewis, and Charles Maddocks, came into court. After some trouble, the court being excessively crowded, the defendants having room made for them at the counsel's table. On calling over the panel only four special jurymen answered to their names; the counsel for the prosecution then prayed a tales, upon which Mr Denman, counsel for Edmonds and Maddocks, moved the court that the trial should stand over, in consequence of a juryman, Mr. Peach, of Ilicote, who stood first on the list, not having been summoned until one o'clock on that morning, and thereby the defendants had lost the benefit of his attendance. The Court granted a delay of an hour, and during that time an affidavit was prepared to that effect by Mr. Pearson, solicitor to the defendants, which was afterwards presented and read, and several officers of the Court examined as to the circumstances attending the summoning of Mr. Peach. Mr. Hill, counsel for Major Cartwright, challenged the array on the ground of non-indifferency. Wooler also challenged the array, and objected to the manner in which the jury lists had been made out. He protested against all the proceedings, as did Lewis, another of the defendants. The learned Judge, however, refused to put off the cause, and the following jury was thereupon empanelled:—Special Jurors: Stephen Barber, Esq. (foreman), John Harris, George Lucy, M.P., and James S. Bicknell, Esqrs. Tales: John Burman, John Burbury, Wm. Gumley, Thomas Salt, Benjamin Hughes, James Lakin, Edward Shuttleworth, and Insall Burman.

When the foreman had the book given into his hand Wooler said,—"Mr. Barber, I wish to ask you whether you have ever expressed any opinion as to the merits or demerits of this case?" His Lordship however interfered and said, as a special juryman he was not bound to answer the question. The same query was put to the three others, as well as to the common jurymen, the latter of whom all replied in the negative. Mr. Balguy, as junior Counsel, opened the case, which, as is already known to our readers, charged the defendant with a seditious conspiracy in this town on the 12th July last year, and with illegally electing Sir Charles Wolseley, Baronet, as Legislative Attorney and Representative for the town of Birmingham. Mr. Sarjeant Vaughan stated the nature of the case, and detailed the proceedings at very great length, in the course of which he read extracts from the printed report of the speeches and resolutions of the meeting, as published by Edmonds. Mr. Francis Johnston, Mr. Dickenson, surgeon, and Mr. Isaac Pemberton, of this town, were then examined, and deposed to the substance of the speeches delivered on the occasion by the defendants, the general tenor of which is well known. The Reports of the Meeting by Edmonds and Wooler were then put in and sworn to, and other evidence examined in support of the conspiracy. The witnesses were cross-examined by Wooler and Lewis on their own behalf, by Mr. Denman for Edmonds and Maddocks, and by Mr. Hill for Major Cartwright. Wooler and Edmonds's reports of the meeting were afterwards read, and closed the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Denman then, in a speech of great length and ingenuity, addressed the court on behalf of Edmonds and Maddocks, in the course of which he attempted to establish that no conspiracy was entertained by his clients; and with respect to the meeting and its object, the learned gentleman compared it to the annual election of a Mayor of Garratt, or to the two members to serve for Eye, in Devonshire, maintaining, that while nobody thought of taking notice of such things, the ludicrous farce at Birmingham should also be excepted, and not made the unworthy object of grave denunciation. After this Mr. Hill followed on the part of Major Cartwright, enforcing the arguments of Mr. Denman, reading various extracts in supporting his positions, and insisting that Sir Charles was only conditionally elected. Upon Mr. Hill concluding, he requested permission to read a written defence, drawn up by the Major, which was refused by his Lordship, as inconsistent with the rules of the Court. Mr. Wooler then begged from the lateness of the hour (nearly eleven o'clock) that he might be allowed to defer his defence until next morning, which was willingly acquiesced in by the Judge, and the Court immediately adjourned.

The Court met on Friday morning, at ten, soon after which Wooler commenced his defence, which occupied upwards of three hours in its delivery. In the course of it he insisted, that the election of Sir Charles was not a violent act and that he was merely chosen to try the right of the people of Birmingham to have a representative; he was deputed merely to send a letter to the House and to claim a seat on their behalf.

Major Cartwright's written defence, which was in fact, a detail of the Major's political life, was then permitted by the Court to be read by Mr. Pearson his Solicitor. It occupied several hours in reading, and when finished, Lewis, entered upon his defence. No witnesses were called by the defendants, and their case, therefore, closed as soon as Lewis sat down.

The Lord Chief Baron then commenced his address to the jury, briefly touching in his course, upon the various points urged in defence, in the following terms:—

. . . . . .

His Lordship concluded his summing up at twenty minutes past nine o'clock, when the jury retired, after stating in answer to a question from the Judge, that they did not think it necessary to have any of the papers produced in the cause with them for their perusal. In twenty minutes afterwards they returned and gave in their verdict, finding all the defendants guilty.

The court was by no means so crowded on the second day. The defendants will, of course, receive sentence in the court of King's Bench, in the ensuing term. Edmonds did not, we believe, appear in Court, during the proceedings.

Sir Charles Mordaunt, Bart., one of the members for the Northern Division of the County, vacated his seat this year; and the Birmingham electors recommended Richard Spooner as a fit and proper person to represent them. The county magnates, however, proposed Mr. Francis Lawley The nomination took place at Warwick, on October 24; the show of hands being in favour of Mr. Spooner, a poll was demanded. After a contest of six days Mr. Spooner retired, leaving Mr. Lawley elected by a majority of 1,255 votes.

We must now revert to the subject of the Seditious Libel prosecution :—

Nov. 27, 1820.—It will be seen by our report of the proceedings in the Court of King's Bench that judgment has been passed upon several individuals convicted of having published libels of a seditious and blasphemous character in this town. On Tuesday Joseph Russell was sentenced to imprisonment in our county gaol for eight months, and afterwards to give securities for his good behaviour for three years, himself in £20, and two sureties in £10 each. Joseph Brandis, for a libellous address to the Reformers, one year, and to find securities for three years, himself in £50, and two sureties in £25 each; and John Osborne, for a libel on the army, one year's imprisonment in the house of correction in Cold-bath Fields. On Thursday, the defendants in the case of the King *v.* Edmonds, Cartwright, and others, obtained a rule to show cause why a new trial should not be granted; but it was understood that the argument was immediately to be proceeded with, and not to be placed on the new trial paper. On the same day, Lewis, of Coventry, succeeded in deferring judgment against him until this day.

Dec. 4, 1820.—In the Court of King's Bench, on Monday, W. G. Lewis, late of Coventry, was sentenced for a libel on the Magistrates of Manchester, to pay a fine of £50 to the King, to an imprisonment of two years in Oakham gaol, at the expiration of that term to find securities for his good behaviour for five years, himself in £200, and two securities in bonds of £100 each. The argument in the case of Major Cartwright and others, for a conspiracy in this town, and the motion for judgment against George Edmonds, for a libel upon the Magistrates of Birmingham, were, on the same day, deferred to the first day of the ensuing term, until which period the latter has entered into recognizance to be of good behaviour.

The political history of the year closes with the report of a loyal meeting, held at the Public Office :—

Dec. 18, 1820.—On Friday, a numerous and highly respectable meeting of inhabitants friendly to the promotion of an address of loyalty and attachment to his Majesty at the present juncture, was held at the Public Office, in this town. The meeting was originally intended merely as a preliminary one, but in consequence of the number of our townsmen who attended, and the strong desire manifested to enter at once into the consideration of an address, Isaac Spooner, Esq. was unanimously called to the chair, and the business was regularly proceeded in. The Rev. Mr. Spry, after a few introductory remarks on the necessity of persons stepping forward and openly avowing their sentiments in these perilous and divided times, submitted to the judgment of those assembled an address he had prepared, and which, having been seconded and put from the chair, was immediately and unanimously adopted.

Several resolutions were afterwards entered into by the Meeting, which will be found in the second page of our publication, together with the names of those who have already sanctioned the address and proceedings by their signatures. Copies of the address are intended to be, for the reception of additional names, at the Public Office, and at the Shakespear Tavern, until Friday next, when it will be forwarded to our county Members for presentation. The following is a copy of the address :—

"To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

"We, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the undersigned Magistrates, Clergy. Merchants, Manufacturers, and other inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Birmingham, humbly approach your Majesty with our earnest expressions of zealous and unalterable attachment to your Majesty's Person and Government.

"We have watched, with disgust and alarm, the dessemination of principles which directly tend to the subversion of all that is dear to Britons, to the destruction of our Church, and the overthrow of our happy Constitution. We have seen the effect of these principles in the riotous conduct of an unruly and misguided populace, in outrages offered to the Venerable Heads of our Ecclesiastical Establishment, in the menaces and insults with which the most illustrious of our Nobles have been pursued in the public streets of the metropolis, and in the unmeasured and highly disrespectful language which has been addressed to your Majesty on a late occasion. We feel it to be the duty of every loyal subject to stand up in opposition to such principles, and to avow his unmingled abhorrence of such conduct. And we humbly assure your Majesty of our fixed determination to maintain, inviolate, the Laws and the Altars of our Country, and of our unchangeable resolution to resist and repel every attack that may be made upon them, under whatever guise it may be meditated, and from whatever quarter it may come.

"We earnestly implore that all wise and watchful Providence which has hitherto protected this favoured country from foreign enemies, and from domestic treason, still to extend its sheltering arm over your Majesty's valuable life, and so to control and defeat the counsels of the turbulent and seditious, that your Majesty may long continue to reign over a free, happy, and united people."

On February 5, 1821, we read in the case of "The King *v.* George Edmonds"—that "on Thursday, this defendant, with the consent of Mr. Serjeant Vaughan, obtained a further delay of judgment until the question of new trial in the foregoing case shall be decided."

The reference to the Birmingham prosecutions during the year are as follows :—

Feb. 12, 1821.—In the Court of King's Bench, on Friday, the rule obtained against the printer and publisher of the John Bull newspaper, for a libel on the late Lady Wrottesley, was made absolute. On the same day George Ragg, late of this town, was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment in the House of Correction, Cold Bath Fields, for publishing a seditious and blasphemous libel, in No. 9, of the Republican.

Feb. 12, 1821.—On Saturday, Mr. Serjeant Vaughan moved the judgment of the Court upon George Edmonds, for a libel upon the Magistrates of this town, when the defendant put in an affidavit, stating that, previously to the trial at Warwick Assizes, he had written to Messrs. Spooner and Price, two of the prosecutors, informing them that he should suffer a verdict to go against him, on the understanding that he was not to be called up for judgment. The Court then inquired of Mr. Serjeant Vaughan whether he had any affidavit explanatory of the circumstance, and upon the learned Counsel replying in the negative, Mr. Justice Bayley remarked that the Bench were placed in a very awkward situation if the whole case was not brought before them by the Counsel for the Crown. The Court eventually ordered that the defendant should be brought up again on the eighth day of next Term, his recognizances in the mean time to be continued.

May 28, 1821.—Court of King's Bench.—The King *v.* Edmonds, Cartwright, and others for a Conspiracy.—Yesterday the Attorney General moved the judgment of the Court upon the defendants in this case. The Chief Justice commenced by stating the nature of the action upon which the defendants had been convicted. The objections which had been made to the legality of the verdict were, that the Judge upon the trial had not permitted certain challenges to be put to the jurors who tried the cause for their supposed unindifference. It was proper to remark at this stage of the judgment, that no challenge could at all events have been made, until a full jury appeared. Every one of the challenges made at the trial had been made before a full jury had been assembled, and therefore there was no grounds for a new trial. Several matters of fact had also been stated, in order to sustain the averment that the jurors were not indifferently collected. The Court, however, were unanimously of opinion, that the array could not be challenged for the supposed unindifference of the Master. The Chief Justice delivered a very ample refutation of the various alleged inconveniencies to which the defendants were exposed by the powers vested in the Master, and concluded by observing, that manifest inconvenience must arise to the administration of justice, if, in every case, defendants or prosecutors were at liberty to challenge the array for the supposed unindifference or hostility of the Master. "The Court," his Lordship continued, "having maturely weighed all the circumstances of the case, were of opinion that the rule for a new trial ought to be discharged."

The Attorney General.—"In this case, my Lords, I propose to move the judgment of the Court upon these defendants on Monday next." The day was afterwards, on the suggestion of Mr. Denman, to which the Attorney General acceded, changed to Wednesday, and on that day the defendants were ordered by the Court to attend.

The King *v.* George Edmonds, for a libel. This defendant, on Monday, requested that the case should go over until the day on which the other matter against him was to be heard. The learned Serjeant, he dared to say, would not object, as the present was a thing of minor consideration.

Mr. Serjeant Vaughan.—"Oh, quite minor! This, my Lord, is only a libel on the Magistrates of a County; the other in upon the Government at large: quite minor! It may come on as the defendant pleases."

And thus closes the record of the Political Agitation of the decade ending in 1821.

CHAPTER IV.—1821—1831.

§ 1. APPEARANCE OF THE TOWN.

As we approach the present time the changes in the appearance of the town become of a more marked character. Modern improvements partake of the nature of the modern spirit, and are carried out on an extensive scale. The principal destroyer of old land marks and old buildings has been the railway, which is in itself a not unfitting type of modern civilization—haste being one of its most peculiar and special characteristics. Birmingham, however, preserved its old aspect down to a very recent date. In the middle of the present decade, in the year 1825, James Drake published his "Picture of Birmingham." The writer is standing on the Crescent, and says "From the west end of this area we enjoy a pleasing and lively summer-view over a considerable tract of land, laid out in small gardens. This mode of applying plots of ground, in the immediate vicinity of the town, is highly beneficial to the inhabitants. There must be some of these gardens in different quarters round Birmingham, letting from 10s. 6d. to two guineas per annum. They promote healthful exercise and rational enjoyment among the families of the artizans; and, with good management, produce an ample supply of those wholesome vegetable stores, which are comparatively seldom tasted by the middling classes, when they have to be purchased." * There can be no doubt but that these "workmen's pets" added to the beauty, the health and material prosperity of the town.

On Wednesday, April 3, 1822, the Royal assent was given to an Act for enlarging the powers of two acts of the late reign, "for rebuilding Deritend Bridge, and for widening the avenues thereto, and making certain other improvements." Here is the record of some of the other improvements :—

* Picture of Birmingham. By James Drake, pp. 45-6.

November 18, 1822.—We have pleasure in noticing the projected improvements already commenced in New-street in this town. We understand it is intended, after levelling as nearly as practicable the whole of the street from one end to the other, to flag both foot paths, and to light the street by lamps, raised upon iron columns, at the edge of the causeway. We learn also, with satisfaction, that these desirable alterations will, as speedily as possible, be followed by similar improvements in the High-street and other principal streets of the town.

Our markets were all held in the open air. The Bull Ring was the scene of the great market, and those who remember the turmoil, the inconvenience, the stoppage of traffic, and the "thousand and one" nuisances which were caused by the assemblage of dealers with their stalls, and heaps of all kinds of goods exposed for sale, will be surprised that a public-spirited people like ours could have tolerated it so long. Custom, however, is a terrible tyrant, and "let well alone" a proverb which has delayed many an improvement. The first suggestion for a market-hall appeared on December 9, 1822, and then it was made by a correspondent :—

We fully agree with our correspondent as to the great advantage that would arise from the erection of a public market-house in some central part of the town; but we understand there are certain obstacles of a legal nature which will necessarily prevent an undertaking of the kind being carried into effect, for some years at least. We do not, however, think the spot to which he refers at all calculated for the purpose.

The following account of two coach accidents shows the state of the streets at this period :—

Dec. 23, 1822.—On Monday morning last, the Crown Prince Coach, on its way out of town, was upset near the Chapel erecting at Bordesley, by passing over a heap of stones on the road side. The accident was entirely occasioned by the denseness of the fog, and we believe only one of the passengers was materially hurt. On the same morning the Sovereign coach nearly experienced a similar accident, by the leaders falling upon a heap of manure in Digbeth. The horses were very much injured, and it was with the greatest difficulty the driver succeeded in preventing the overturning of the coach. Is it not the duty of the Commissioners of our Street Acts to insist that lights, when necessary, should be placed upon all such collections of soil until their removal is wholly effected?

The spire of St. Paul's was finished in 1823; and we regret to learn that its execution was almost ruinous to the builder :—

Aug. 11, 1823.—The spire of St. Paul's Chapel, which is now completed, is universally allowed to be a great ornament to the town, and very creditable to Mr. Goodwin, the architect. It also reflects peculiar credit on Mr. Seabourne, the builder, who has executed the work in a very substantial and masterly style; but, from adverse circumstances which

occurred last winter, the contract, it is to be feared, has not proved a profitable concern to him; and it is hoped that the Committee may yet obtain funds which will enable them to fulfil their intention of making him a complimentary present, which he justly deserves.

The event recorded in the following paragraph opened the way to many changes which were afterwards made in the appearance of the town :—

Birmingham, March 8, 1824.– It gives us pleasure to state that the Commissioners of our Street Acts have brought their treaty with the Lord of the Manor for the purchase of his right in the market of this town, to a successful conclusion. From the circumstances of these rights having for many years past interfered with the improvement of the place, particularly as it respects the erection of a suitable market-house, we are induced to announce their purchase, in itself an advantageous bargain, as a subject of congratulation to our fellow-townsmen.

Early in 1825 the Commissioners applied to Parliament for powers to enable them to effect sundry important improvements in the town. A public meeting was held on March 2, to consider the proposals. The nature and extent of these improvements are given in the following extract from the Commissioners' report :—

The improvement which appeared to claim the first attention of the Commissioners, was the proposed enlargement of the Market Place, and a site most suitable for such a purpose. After much deliberation, they are of opinion, that the space between the present Market-place in High Street and Worcester Street, including Bell Street and Philip Street is the most suitable, under all circumstances, to recommend to the consideration of the Inhabitants. Its contiguity to the present market—its facilities for approaching it, and the little change such a choice would produce in the value of neighbouring property, are circumstances which contribute to point out this as the most eligible spot; and to strengthen the judgment of the Commissioners, in approving of the recent purchase of part of the property in High Street and Philip Street, in anticipation of this object, and with a view to obtaining the stallage right in front of Mr. Cope's premises, which was the only manorial right, connected with the markets, not previously belonging to the Commissioners.

Another important improvement, in some measure connected with the foregoing, is the purchase of the property between the Beast Market and St. Martin's Lane and Moat Lane.

It is unnecessary to make any remark upon the great advantages the town has derived from the establishment of the Beast Market. The increased number of neat and other cattle brought there renders it necessary that the same should be enlarged and made more commodious; and they therefore recommend that the whole of the building from Smithfield Market to St. Martin's Church should be purchased and taken down, and so much of the land as may hereafter be considered necessary laid to the market, and the residue sold.

The widening of Stafford Street; Opening into Park Street from Digbeth; Widening and Improvement of Digbeth; Widening the end of Allison Street; Improvement of

New Street at the upper end of Worcester Street; Union Passage from Cherry Street to Bull Street; Widening Smallbrook Street at the end of Dudley Street; Improvement of Hurst Street; Improvement of Navigation Street and Pinfold Street; Improvement of Masshouse Lane; Improvement of the bottom of Worcester Street, leading into Edgbaston Street, and by opening a Street to lead into Bromsgrove Street.

In considering the means possessed by the Commissioners to accomplish these improvements without any additional burthen on the inhabitants, they referred to their Finance and Market Committees, and from their reports it appeared that a disposable balance of receipts if not less than £2,000 might be calculated upon. Calculating on the present reduced interests of money, this surplus would enable the Commissioners, under the present rate, to borrow for the purpose of the projected improvement the additional sum of £50,000, at 4 per cent. per annum.

The application was opposed, and a deputation was appointed to confer with the commissioners. The scheme was not carried out this year. On March 21 the commissioners informed the inhabitants "that owing to the length of time occupied in the discussion of the Town Improvement Bill, with the deputation appointed at the late public meeting, they are prevented introducing the bill into Parliament this Session, and have therefore suspended all further proceedings."

The following advertisements will show the kind of residences still to be obtained in parts of the town now crowded with shops and dwelling houses :—

February 28, 1825.—DELIGHTFUL RESIDENCE, in Lombard Street, Parish of Aston, overlooking the Pleasure Grounds of the Apollo, the numerous Gardens of St. Philip's Rectory, and the Windings of the River Rea, through the Longbridge Meadows, at once combining the advantages of both a Town and Country House.

To be Sold at a fair valuation: the House is very substantially built, and consists of flagged entrance hall and stone staircase, lofty dining room, 18 feet by 15 feet, with china closet, well fitted up; drawing room, 22 feet by 15 feet; four good bed rooms, with dressing room and four closets; Kitchen, 18 feet by 15 feet, with two pantries; capital ale, beer, and wine cellars; brewhouse, and coal vault; and is also fitted up with every useful fixture, and fit for the immediate reception of a genteel family.

The Outbuildings consist of a gig-house, hackney stable, and saddle room, a stable for two horses, and other erections easily convertible into a considerable manufactory. The front of the house is towards the garden, at the bottom of which is a constant stream of water, from which a fountain and bath are supplied by a steam engine generally at work. Mr. Palmer, tenant.

There is also a considerable space of ground adjoining, upon which several houses may be built, without annoying the present property.

The whole is leasehold for an unexpired term of 74 years, subject to the low ground rent of three half-pence a yard.

For further particulars, and for tickets to view the above, apply to James Harrison, General Agent, New Street, Birmingham.

April 25, 1825.—To be Let, the Messuage, Hot-house, Vinery, Garden, and Paddock, in Bradford Street, Bordesley, near Birmingham, late the residence of Mr. John Horton, deceased.

May 16, 1825.—To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, all that genteel Dwelling House, consisting of handsome vestibule, two parlours, and Kitchen on the ground floor, with excellent cellars, four chambers, and four attics, brewhouse, capital out buildings, large Garden and Park, fenced in with high walls, two Fish-ponds, Greenhouse, Pinehouse, Hot house, &c., in the highest state of perfection, the whole situated in Bradford-street, Bordesley, and late the residence of John Horton, Esq., deceased.

The House is fitted up with every convenient fixture, the Garden and Park abound with choice fruit trees, and the Pine Plants and Vines are in the best possible order.

For particulars apply to Mr. Simcox, Solicitor, Bull-ring, or to John Kempson, Surveyor, New-street, Birmingham.

The following selection from a long list of similar notices affords a good picture of the appearance of Suffolk Street at this time :—

SUFFOLK STREET.

January 16, 1826.—The extensive premises (No. 113) in Suffolk Street; consisting of a substantial Dwelling House, Warehouse, Manufactory, and other Buildings, with an entire Yard attached thereto.

Also the commodious Premises adjoining to the above, being No. 114, in the occupation of Mr. Bagnall, Whipmaker; consisting of a substantial and convenient Dwelling House, Shopping, entire Yard, Garden, and other appurtenances.

Also the highly valuable and convenient Property adjoining, being No. 115, in the occupation of Mr. Loxton, Japanner; consisting of a handsome stone-fronted Dwelling House, Warehouse, Counting House, extensive Shopping, Large Garden, and other premises, with a considerable extent of front Building Land.

The next extract give the names of the streets first lighted by gas :—

May 1, 1826.—The Birmingham and Staffordshire Gas Company commenced lighting the undermentioned streets on Saturday night, as an experiment to try the necessary pressure requisite, viz., Hockley, Great Hampton-street, Hall-street, St. Paul's-square, Northwood-street, Livery-street, and part of Snow-hill. The result was highly satisfactory, and proves beyond all doubt, that gas may be carried to almost any distance with success. The distance from the gasometer at West Bromwich to the extremity of the leading main pipe, is nearly eight miles.

Gardens were still to be had in all parts of the town. Here is one near the new market to be sold :—

CAPITAL GARDEN.

May 28, 1827.—To be Sold, an excellent Garden, within a short walk of Smithfield Market, completely stocked with choice fruit trees, strawberry plantations, full crop of vegetables in a forward state, very superior asparagus bed, large brick-built summer house,

with sash windows, and fitted up with cupboards, seats, fire-place, &c., commanding a pleasant and extensive view. The whole is very securely fenced, and completely retired.

Apply to Charles Cheston, Bridge-row, Deritend.

In this year the Commissioners published the following notice :—

Nov. 12, 1827.—The Commissioners of the Street Acts, in consequence of applications made to them by the Magistrates and others, have again given the notice required by Parliament, of their intention to apply in the ensuing session for an act to enable them to effect sundry contemplated improvements, and particularly to erect a market-house, and to increase the accommodations which are indispensably necessary for the due administration of justice. It therefore remains to be seen whether the Commissioners, acting as trustees for the public benefit, will receive that degree of support from the inhabitants generally which is essential to their success.

The improvements which the Commissioners now contemplated making in the town were of a most extensive and important kind. A meeting of the rate-payers was held on Friday, March 7, 1828, in Beardsworth's Repository, Cheapside, when leave was obtained to apply to Parliament for a bill for powers to carry them out. The extent of these improvements will be appreciated when we state that they included "the enlargement of the Market-place; the enlargement and improvement of Smithfield Market; the widening of Stafford-street; the opening into Park-street from Digbeth; the widening and improvement of Digbeth; ditto the end of Allison-street; the improvement of New-street at the upper end of Worcester-street; Union-passage, from Cherry-street to Bull-street; the widening of Smallbrook-street at the end of Dudley-street; the improvement of Hurst-street; the improvement of Navigation-street and Pinfold-street; the improvement of Masshouse-lane; and the improvement of the bottom of Worcester-street."

In addition to this long list of changes, a new building of the greatest use as well as ornament to the town was also contemplated by the Commissioners. They say in their report :—

"The next object to which the attention of your Committee was called was the purchase of a proper site for, and the erection of a Town Hall, suitable for the transaction of public business, an object to which the attention of the Commissioners was called, in the first instance, by the Musical Committee of the General Hospital, and which has since been more forcibly urged by a very large proportion of the rate-payers. On this subject your Committee thought it expedient to confer with the deputation of the Memorialists, who exhibited to your Committee a plan of a suitable building capable of containing 3,000 persons, the estimated expence of which, including the purchase of a freehold site, they stated to be about £20,000."

On May 26 we read :—"The Town Improvement bill passed the House of Lords without amendment, and on Friday last received the Royal Assent."

The question of a site for the Town Hall troubled the Commissioners not a little. Here is their first resolution on the subject :—

July 28, 1828.—At a special meeting of the Commissioners of the New Improvement Act, on Friday, it was resolved, that the intended Town Hall should be erected in Bennett's Hill, near to the Public News Room. Plans, estimates, and specifications, will be advertised for as soon as the purchase of the land necessary for the purchase is arranged.

The work of improvement was soon commenced after the bill was obtained. On September 16, it was announced that "The widening and improving the Stafford Street end of the town has been determined upon, by the Commissioners, as the first public work to be executed under the authority of the new improvement act."

Still further changes :—

November 23, 1829.—The rapid manner in which this town has been extended on all sides within the last few years, cannot have escaped the observation of any one who has recently visited the place. A populous district is now forming between Ashted and the Aston Road, to be called Duddeston Town, and a main street, named Great Lister Street, has been laid open from Gosta Green to the Saltley, or Half-penny, Gate, thereby opening a direct road from the centre of the town to Castle Bromwich, Coleshill, &c. Much of this improvement is to be attributed to the prompt and spirited manner in which the Commissioners under the recently-obtained Duddeston Act have effected the lighting and watching of a district hitherto unprotected and apparently unconnected with the town.

§ 2. PUBLIC LIFE AND EVENTS.

The active part of the public life of this decade was political, to the record of which we shall devote a section of this chapter. In other departments we were also tolerably active; and the people fully sustained the reputation which they had obtained of being able to look after their own affairs. The first work of the year 1822 was a good one. On January 7 an intimation appeared that it was under consideration to form a Savings' Bank in Birmingham. The hint was, as we shall see, soon carried out, and a Savings' Bank was added to our other institutions.

THE OLD WORKHOUSE LICHFIELD ST.

Erected 1733 taken down 1853

A curious controversy and law suit arose out of the action for libel brought against George Edmonds. In the accounts of the Constables for that year a sum of money was charged as expenses incurred in that prosecution. On Wednesday, January 23, a Town's Meeting was held on the subject, at the Public Office, and was so largely attended that it had to be adjourned to Beardsworth's Repository. The constituted authorities carried their resolution; but the opposition resolved to appeal to the Court of King's Bench against the decision of the meeting. This was done and, after several hearings, the resolution of the meeting was confirmed.

In this year was published the following important report on the condition and management of the poor :—

BIRMINGHAM WORKHOUSE.

March 30th, 1822.—Considerable improvement having taken place in Respect to the Condition and Management of the Poor, the Employment of Paupers, and the Collection of Poor Levies, in the Parish of Birmingham, the Guardians and Overseers, at their last Quarterly Meeting, directed that a brief Summary of these affairs should be published for the information of their fellow townsmen. This has accordingly been drawn up, and is offered as follows, under the heads of Parish Debts—Employment and Management of the Poor—and Collection of Poor Levies.

First.—Account of Debts owing by Birmingham Parish :—

Lady Day	1821. £	s.	d.	1822. £	s.	d.
For Provisions, Clothing, Drugs, &c. . .	4,580	3	1	1,420	2	3
Law Expenses	1,027	11	5	49	5	8
To Justices' Clerks for fees at Public Office, &c.	569	4	3	108	15	0
" Constables	1,193	7	2½	555	17	5
For Board of Lunatics at Droitwich . . .	580	12	10½	525	11	1
For Salaries, and Sundry other Debts . .	470	0	6	39	1	6
	8,420	19	4	2,698	12	11

By the above statement it will be seen, that during the last year the debts owing by the Parish have been reduced to the extent of about £5,720. The Overseers are now enabled to settle their accounts quarterly, and the above sum of £2,698 comprises little more than the debts necessarily incurred during the last quarter.

Second.—Employment and Management of the Poor.—In the beginning of 1821, the attention of the Guardians and Overseers was more particularly called to the number of strong able-bodied men who were still applying weekly for parochial relief, and further steps were then taken with a view to make such persons earn the relief by labour previously to its being paid them. In addition to the Parish mills for grinding corn,

the manufacturing of flax, and the sand cliffs at Hockley, 30 acres of land, adjoining the parish land on Birmingham-heath, were taken, and thus ample means were furnished of employing every able-bodied pauper that applied for relief, in order "not only to give employment to the industrious and well disposed, but to deter and drive away the more idle and profligate," and these desirable objects have, with much labour and diligence, been fully accomplished.

At the present time there are about 84 persons employed in working at the sand cliff, and upon the farm. Their labour has been so far productive that the amount paid to the Parish Cashier for sand sold during the last year, was £436 12s. The Workhouse and Asylum have been supplied with potatoes from the farm through the winter, and 600 bushels remain in hand.

Since the appointment of the Employment Committee in May, 1819, "the whole amount of expenditure incurred in the purchase of wheat, mills, repairs, rent, wages, and incidentals, is £6,956 13s.; the returns in flour, bran, fixtures, &c., are £6,702 5s. 3d., leaving a deficiency of £254 7s. 9d. for a period of nearly three years, in which the men employed (who would otherwise have been, in different degrees, chargeable to the parish) have received in wages nearly £900. The sum saved by deterring people from making application for relief cannot, of course, be estimated. In the flax department, 2,394 yards of cloth have been woven since the first introduction of the manufacture in 1820. This employment, so suitable for the female poor in the House, is now in course of being extended. Twelve boys and four men are now employed in the Workhouse, under a superintendant, in making and mending shoes.

In consequence of these arrangements, combined with the vigilant superintendence of the Overseers, the general revival of trade in Birmingham, and the low price of provisions, very few able-bodied persons have recently applied for parochial relief. Those who are really in want of employment take greater pains to obtain it for themselves, and instances have occurred wherein idle and dissolute persons have been made industrious, by compelling them to earn their subsistence by labour. In the Asylum there are at present 324 children, being 81 less than at Lady-day, 1821. Forty-three having been admitted in the course of last year, make the total number of 124 who have been removed to situations as servants, or who, by the improved condition of their parents, have been voluntarily under their care. As many of the children as are able to work are employed in labour suitable to their tender years. The following is a statement of their present occupation :—

Pin-making	Boys, 129	Girls, 29 —	157
Straw-plat	"		82
British lace	"		18
	Total employed		257

The actual produce of their labour from March 25, 1821, to March 25, 1822, is £683 1s. 6d.

The Asylum Committee further report "That they have great pleasure in stating that not only is the present appearance of the children pleasing and interesting to every parental and feeling heart, but their moral conduct is equally as much so—they are diligent, subordinate, and peaceable."

Number of Poor in the House :		1821.	1822.
Lady-day		596	455
Number of cases of out-poor receiving parish relief		3,785	2,603
Ditto Children in the Asylum		405	324
Weekly pay to the out-poor :		£ s. d.	
Lady-day	1821	525 3 2	
Ditto	1822	360 0 8	

Third.—Collection of Poor Levies. The very partial and oppressive manner in which the Poor Levies had been collected for many years in Birmingham Parish, namely, by collecting only from the inhabitants of the principal streets and large houses, and excusing the much greater proportion of assessed property, which generally consisted of smaller houses in back streets and courts, had forcibly excited the attention of the inhabitants, and had naturally given rise to great complaints on the part of those persons upon whom the heavy burthen of the poor levies had hitherto exclusively rested. It also appeared that those houses which did not pay poor levies paid to the landlord a higher rent in consequence of the omission ; and it was found necessary, for the more perfect correction of this flagrant irregularity, to represent the fact to the Legislature ; and in consequence of the representation, the General Act of 59th, Geo III was obtained, which enabled overseers to collect, from the landlords of small houses, where this was found more expedient than to collect from the tenants. In order to shew the great partiality which prevailed in collecting poor levies under the old system, it may be observed, that the total amount of each levy in the grand levy book, calculated upon all property within the parish at two-thirds of the annual value, is £4,041, whilst the sum collected under the old system was only about £1,700.

After various attempts to remedy this evil, which were in a great degree frustrated by the opposition of many of the landlords of small houses, combined with other circumstances, it was found necessary to recommend a vestry meeting of the inhabitants, to appoint twelve standing overseers, whose whole time should be occupied in collecting poor rates, and that equally, as far as could be accomplished, from rateable property of every description. Their appointment took place at Lady-day, 1821, subject to the direction of the Overseers, and it is a subject of congratulation that, as far as they have hitherto been enabled to act upon the new system, their exertions, materially aided by the co-operation of the magistrates, have been highly beneficial to the town, and the parish burthen has been more equitably divided than heretofore, although it is still to be regretted that the same opposition on the part of some of the landlords of small houses has increased the labour of collecting, and has hitherto prevented the inhabitants in general from deriving that full benefit which they have a right to calculate upon, when the new system has been carried into effect.

The following is a comparative statement of the years 1821 and 1822, ending at Lady Day in each year :—

	1821.			1822.		
Number of Single Levies,	30			20		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount collected	50,106	1	7	44,631	9	1
Average amount of each Levy	1,670	0	0	2,280	0	0

In making any general report of the Parish affairs, it would be improper not to notice the Town Infirmary, which forms a part of the Parish Workhouse. The following statement will serve to shew the great importance of this parochial establishment to the comfort and relief of the poor, as well as the great labour which is necessarily incurred by those gentlemen to whose professional skill this important branch is so beneficially entrusted.

During the past year the average number of Patients in the Town Infirmary has been 66.

In the same period 6,744 Patients have received medical relief at their own dwellings; and 751 have undergone vaccine inoculation.

There is one branch of parish expenditure which used to require a large sum annually, but which has been conducted with a considerable reduction of expense, namely, in cases of dispute with other parishes respecting the settlement of paupers. This reduction of expense will be best explained by an extract from the Report of the Committee, by whom this business has been recently conducted.

"The Law Committee wish to express their conviction, that the system which has recently been acted upon, in regard to the numerous cases of disputed settlement which have occurred, namely, endeavouring to settle these disputed cases by friendly explanations with other parishes without having recourse to law proceedings, excepting matters of necessity, has not only been the means of saving large sums of money to the parish, but has occasioned similar conciliatory proceedings on the part of other parish officers. With a view, therefore, to serve the Parish of Birmingham, the Law Committee would earnestly recommend to future Guardians and Overseers a perseverance in the same system. The total amount of law charges incurred under the direction of this Committee, for one year, up to the present time, is £85 4s. 4d."

(Signed), P. M. James, Chairman.

On May 21 and 22, the town was visited by a very severe thunderstorm, accompanied by "torrents of rain," which caused a great destruction of property.

On the 30th of July, St. George's Church was consecrated :—

Consecration of St. George's Church.

August 5, 1822.—On Tuesday last, the ceremony of consecrating St. George's Church took place; and, notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, a considerable number of the inhabitants attended to witness the performance of this solemn and interesting rite. Shortly before eleven o'clock, the Clergy and Gentlemen assembled at the Hospital, the appointed place of meeting, preceded by the children of the Blue Coat School, moved in procession towards the church, and at the foot of Constitution Hill they were met by the Bishop of Chester, attended by his Son, the Chancellor of this diocese, and by the Registrar, Mr. Mott; his Lordship's carriage then fell in with and closed the procession. On reaching the church, the galleries of which were occupied by a respectable congregation, a line was formed from the west door by the clergy and gentlemen, through which his lordship passed. The service of Consecration immediately commenced, and concluded with a sermon from the Rev. C. Curtis, Rector; the prayers were read by

the officiating minister, the Rev. John Garbett. On leaving the church his Lordship proceeded to the Burial Ground, and there went through the usual form of consecration. The congregated then separated.

About four o'clock a party, consisting of about sixty gentlemen, sat down to a dinner, prepared at the Royal Hotel. The Rector of St. Martin's presided, having the Bishop on his right, and Lord Aston, Vicar of Tardebridge, the Rev. the Chancellor, &c., on his left. After the removal of the cloth, a number of appropriate toasts were given from the chair, together with the healths of those concerned in the erection and completion of the sacred edifice. The kind attention and urbanity of the Rev. Prelate were not forgotten on this occasion ; and his Lordship, in acknowledging the compliment, seemed fully to appreciate the sincerity with which the thanks and good wishes of the company were offered him. In the course of the afternoon a model of the church, executed in wood by Mr. Shutt, was exhibited, and afforded much gratification to all present. The accuracy with which the artist has succeeded in copying, not only the general effect and details of the exterior, but even the more minute decorative parts of the interior, was indeed well calculated to draw forth the warmest admiration.

The Bishop of Chester retired early, and the majority of the company separated soon after eight o'clock.

We heartily congratulate our townsmen on the completion of the sacred structure ; and we trust it will hereafter become as distinguished for the piety of those who worship therein as it is now strikingly imposing and ornamental to that part of the town in which it is erected. Of modern times it is, perhaps without exception, the most complete and thoroughly harmonious specimen of the beautiful style of church architecture it represents, whether regarded externally or internally ; and, what is of equal consequence, it is admirably adapted to give the fullest effect to the voice, whether proceeding from the pulpit or the choir ; and for the performance of instrumental music we should judge it peculiarly suited. We have frequently alluded to the building in its progress with pleasure ; and now that it is finished, it becomes but justice to the architects to state the important fact, that the entire expence of the church (amounting but to £12,481) instead of exceeding, as is not uncommonly the case, was contracted for and completed, under their superintendence, for upwards of *eleven hundred pounds less* than their original estimate ; and we are strongly of opinion, upon close investigation, it will be found that St. George's Church has been completed for one-third, if not one half, under the cost of any church of its size and capacity erected of late years. We understand that it is not intended to perform divine service there for two or three weeks, and that due notice will be given of its opening.

In a later number the following interesting information of this new parish was published :—

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH AND PARISH.

Aug. 26, 1822.—Attendance will be given at this church in the course of the present week, for the purpose of letting pews and sittings, preparatory to its opening for the performance of divine worship.

The affairs of this newly created parish, we understand, will be administered by a select vestry, appointed in perpetuity, by his Majesty's Commissioners, from the pew-holders and principal inhabitants of the parish, with power afterwards to fill all vacancies in their own body, to elect one of the wardens, and assess the church levies. The parish will have a separate ecclesiastical rate, being only bound to contribute to the repair of St. Martin's church for twenty years, and the church will be effectual for marriages and all other religious rites. For the information of our readers, we have traced the following boundaries of the new parish as delineated on the map, the limits of which, although extensive, are more regular and distinct than in most parochial divisions. Commencing at the bridge over the old canal between Lady Wood and the Cottage of Content, the canal is the boundary westward to the bridge in Lady Wood Lane; from thence the line goes along Lady Wood Lane northward to the Summer-hill toll-gate; and from the toll-gate direct along the road to Hockley-bridge, keeping Messrs. Forrest's brewery and Key-hill to the right and little Hockley-pool to the left. From Hockley-bridge the boundaries of Aston parish are the limits of St. George's as far as to the Britannia brewery and Fazeley canal; from whence it is bounded by the Fazeley canal to the bridge in Livery-street. Hence the boundary is more complicated—it proceeds from the bridge, up Livery-street to Kenion-street, and along Kenion-street to the north end of Caroline-street; from whence, at the back of Regent-place, across Vittoria-street, along Regent-street into Frederick-street, and down Frederick-street into Newhall-hill. From Frederick-street the line crosses, inclosing the houses on Camden-hill, over the lower part of Camden-street and Summer-hill (between Messrs. Hadley's Warehouse, and Mr. Ledsam's house) into Nelson-street, and along by the Cottage of Content to the bridge near Lady Wood. The parts of the town thus comprised in St. George's parish, are Summer-hill, Camden-street, Camden-hill, Warstone-lane, Key-hill, Hockley, part of Nelson, Regent, Frederick, Vittoria, Kenion, Livery, and Water Streets; Great Hampton, Branston, Hall, Hockley, Harford, and Barr Streets; Constitution-hill, Great Hampton-row, Henrietta, Bond, Little Hampton, Hospital, Tower, and Brearley Streets; Summer-lane, Colmore-terrace, New Town-row, Ormond, Manchester, Blews, and Brewery Streets; part of New John, and Pritchit Streets; the General Hospital, Asylum, &c., &c.

During this year Ireland was the scene of fearful distress; and Birmingham, as usual, bore her part in attempting to alleviate it. Meetings were held, and subscription lists opened. We quote this record of the work:—

Subscription for the Relief of the Suffering Peasantry in Ireland

August, 16, 1822.—Committee Room, Public Office; Charles Lloyd in the Chair. It is with much satisfaction that the Committee for promoting a Subscription for the Relief of the Distressed Irish now lay before the Public a general Account of the liberal subscriptions in Birmingham and its neighbourhood; and they rejoice that the same liberality has been observed by the nation at large, which doubtless will be duly appreciated by our suffering Fellow-subjects in Ireland.

Taylors and Lloyds, Treasurers.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	*Cr.*	£	s.	d.
To amount of Subscriptions received . . .	2,490	6	0	By Advertising, Printing, " Stationery, Assistant Secretary, and Postage .	47	0	2
" Collected in very small weekly Subscriptions, by two benevolent young men of St. Mary's Congregation . . .	4	13	4	" Remittance to the Irish Committee in London .	2,449	0	2
" A Friend ditto to the distressed . . .	1	1	0				
	£2,496	0	4		£2,496	0	4

On December 5, the town again suffered from the effects of "an appalling storm of wind and rain."

On the 23rd of January, 1823, the "Lord Bishop of Chester, acting on behalf of the venerable Bishop of this diocese, consecrated the new Chapel at Bordesley, which, at the desire of the Committee, who have largely contributed to its decoration, after presenting the Commissioners with the site on which it is built, was dedicated to the Holy Trinity."

A public meeting was held on March 14, when a petition was adopted praying the House of Commons for a revision and amendment of the Insolvent Debtors' Act.

In this year Birmingham once more took up the subject of the

Abolition of Slavery.

May 12th, 1823.—Pursuant to appointment a respectable assemblage of our townsmen took place at the Public Office, on Tuesday, to consider a petition praying the adoption of such legislative measures as would lead to the gradual Abolition of Slavery in our colonies. The chair was taken at twelve, by Charles Cope, Esq., High Bailiff, who having read the requisition address presented to him, proceeded to express his full concurrence in the object for which the meeting was held, and his best wishes for its success. With its promoters, he also agreed that a total abolition could alone be effected gradually, as it was necessary that the minds of the negroes should be prepared by education, and by the inculcation of the principles of Christianity, for the reception of that freedom which it was the happiness of this country to experience.

Mr. Charles Lloyd, in moving the preliminary resolution, expressed the diffidence he felt in addressing such a respectable meeting, lest he should not do justice to a cause so deeply interesting to humanity as the Abolition of Slavery; he trusted, however, that the minds of the people at large, from the information which they had received on this most interesting subject in the numerous publications and newspapers, were so well convinced that Slavery was utterly inconsistent with Christianity, and with the noble principles of

liberty so dear to Englishmen, that it was not needful to harrow up the feelings of his hearers by reciting the horrible circumstances which attended Slavery. He would, however, read an advertisement which appeared in the Cape of Good Hope Gazette, dated September, 1822, in which a woman, aged 54, with her five children, were advertised to be sold by public auction, in *six separate lots*. What a horrid advertisement, and how did it chill the blood!

It was more than thirty years ago when this town took a most active part in promoting the Abolition of the Slave Trade. The clergy and the dissenting ministers united in preaching sermons on behalf of the oppressed Africans; and how gratifying is such an union of sentiment among Christians, who, though they may differ in some points of doctrine, can all cordially join in promoting the happiness of their fellow creatures; and may we not trust, that such benevolent union in this world, is a prelude to that glorious union when "they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the Kingdom of God."

But though we earnestly wished for the Abolition of Slavery, candour would induce us to believe that many of the West Indian planters endeavoured to make their slaves comfortable as far as they could be made so, under such a horrid system as Slavery; and we should remember that Great Britain, though foremost in the glorious cause of liberty, was so little aware of the enormity of the Slave Trade, that, on making peace with Spain in 1712, she expressly stipulated that Great Britain should have the monopoly of supplying the Spanish Colonies in America with Slaves. But *now* how happily are the eyes of Englishmen opened! and how do they behold with horror, what former generations beheld with indifference! owing however, in degree, to their not being acquainted with the subject. He could not believe there would be one dissenting voice, in so respectable a meeting, to present a Petition to Parliament for the gradual Abolition of Slavery.

In seconding the resolution moved by Mr. Lloyd, Richard Spooner, Esq., said, he cordially agreed with, and could add but little to what had fallen from his worthy friend. He expressed, in strong terms, his abhorrence of slavery, holding it to be repugnant to every principle of the Christian religion, inconsistent with the national character, and indefensible on any ground.

The petition was submitted to the meeting by the Rev. James Yates, who prefaced its reading at some length. Mr. Beale, the Low Bailiff, seconded its adoption, and inveighed with great feeling against the continuance of slavery. As a nation, he contended, we were imperatively called upon to make such regulations, and pass such laws, as should put an end to a system so demoralizing to our fellow men. After a few remarks from Theodore Price, Esq., the petition was put, and unanimously approved by the meeting. Thanks were then voted to the High Bailiff, and the assembly dispersed.

The petition was transmitted by the High Bailiff to London in the course of the afternoon, and in the absence of Mr. Dugdale, who was prevented attending the House from indisposition, it was presented to the Commons by Mr. Lawley on the next day. In calling the attention of the House to it, Mr. Lawley stated, that it would have received the signatures of a great portion of the inhabitants of the town and its neighbourhood, but from the circumstance of the meeting being held so short a time previous to the expected motion of the member for Weymouth (Mr. Buxton) on the subject. The different parts of the petition were then urged on the particular notice of the House, and

the Hon. Member concluded by remarking—"such are the feelings and opinions of a body of men well calculated to form the justest estimate of the value of *free* labour and *free* exertions." The petition addressed to the Lords was presented by Lord Calthorpe.

Here is a record of one of those terrible accidents which have so frequently occurred in Birmingham :—

August 11, 1823.—In the discharge of our public duty through a long series of years, it has not fallen to our lot to record a more appalling and dreadful accident, or from the peculiar domestic affliction under which the family of the principal sufferers previously laboured—one that has excited a more lively and general feeling of sympathy and regret, than that which occurred in St. Mary's Square, in this town, on Monday last. Soon after four o'clock in the afternoon, the inhabitants for a considerable distance around the square were alarmed by the report occasioned by a tremendous explosion, and the fears of those in the immediate vicinity were heightened by the effects greatly resembling those of a slight shock of an earthquake, accompanied by the destruction of a number of their windows. It was immediately ascertained that the report proceeded from the premises of Mr. Wilson, formerly in the occupation of Messrs. Wilson, Starkey, and Co., button makers; and several persons almost immediately proceeded to the spot, when a dreadful scene presented itself. In a back room, or warehouse adjoining the house, the body of Mr. Wilson was discovered, almost entirely buried beneath a heap of rubbish, shockingly mutulated and disfigured, and deprived of all signs of life ; and in another part of the same room, but at some distance, one of the females employed in the manufactory was found expiring from the effects of the injury she had sustained. The room in which the bodies were lying, we understand, presented an appearance of the most complete ruin and desolation—the floors were perforated, the ceilings and walls stripped, the roof and a part of the laths displaced, and a large counter, at which it afterwards appeared the unfortunate sufferers had been engaged, riven to atoms, and the greater part forced through the aperture into a workshop beneath. In a room adjoining several females were at work, two of whom were also found to be very seriously injured by the effects of the explosion, and two others slightly so. Other more distant parts of the manufactory were much shattered, and the windows, &c., broken. The bodies of the deceased were removed into the house, and the females injured were forthwith conveyed to the hospital, where immediate surgical aid was rendered them, The natural inference as to the cause of the melancholy catastrophe was, that it proceeded from an explosion of gunpowder ; the real cause was, however, soon ascertained, and, dreadful as was the occurrence, the most exaggerated reports were in speedy circulation, and great crowds were in consequence attracted to the spot.

In the course of the evening an inquest was summoned by the coroner, Mr. Whateley, which met on the following morning. The principal evidence was obtained from the under sexton of St. Mary's Chapel, who, it seems was the first to enter the premises after the explosion ; and from several persons employed in the establishment, from whose testimony it appears that Mr. Wilson had been for some time in the habit of manufacturing percussion or fulminating powder—a chemical compound of highly dangerous preparation —now generally used as priming to fowling pieces. By two of the individuals examined, Mr. Wilson, very shortly prior to the accident, was observed to be occupied at the counter of the warehouse, attended by the female who also unfortunately fell a victim, with a

quantity of the powder before him, which he was about to put into a bottle standing near at hand. One of these witnesses passed by him so shortly before the explosion, that it took place before he had time to descend the steps of the warehouse: and that moment he observed that Mr. W. was rubbing some of it between his hands, but by what precise means the explosion was caused, remains, and must still remain wholly unexplained. It was known that the deceased was sometimes in the habit of collecting the powder with the aid of a knife-blade, when putting it into bottles, but whether he used it on this occasion could not be ascertained; a blow or friction against some hard substance, no doubt, however, gave fatal effect to the latent qualities of the mixture. It is supposed the quantity that exploded was from four to five pounds weight; and from the testimony of the medical gentleman (Mr. Lloyd) who examined the bodies, it is some slight consolation to know that the deaths of the sufferers must have been almost instantaneous. After a long and most painful investigation, the verdict returned in both cases was Accidental Death. The females who were conveyed to the hospital, notwithstanding the severity of their injuries, we are happy to say, are in a fair way of recovery. The remains of Mr. Wilson, who was little more than 21 years of age, were interred on Friday, in St. Mary's Chapel-yard.

In this year the town was gratified by a visit from Mr. Robinson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

Sept. 15, 1823.—A duty has seldom presented itself more congenial to our feelings, or more fairly offering matter of congratulation to our townsmen, than that devolving upon us in consequence of the late most gratifying visit from the Right Hon. Gentleman, whose official distinction introduces the present article. It is already known that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, taking advantage of a temporary residence in the neighbourhood with his family, visited this town within the last fortnight, for the purpose of inspecting some of the manufacturing establishments of the place; and having gratified his curiosity as far as his engagements then permitted, he returned to Leamington. Induced by the probability of his remaining there a short time longer, an invitation was transmitted on Monday last, in the name of the Magistrates, High and Low Bailiff, and a number of respectable inhabitants of the town, requesting the honour of his company to dinner at the Royal Hotel, on the following Thursday; the invitation was accepted in the most flattering terms, and a committee was immediately formed to prepare for his reception.

The Right Hon. Gentleman reached the town soon after noon, and on his way to the Hotel, he visited the manufactory of Messrs. Yates and Hamper, where he continued a considerable length of time. The remainder of the morning was occupied in the inspection of other establishments of interest. The gentlemen who had intimated their intention of giving him the meeting began to assemble soon after six o'clock, and after a short time had elapsed the Chancellor entered the room, and was introduced to the company. Dinner was soon announced, and the party, seventy in number, took their seats. The chair was taken by Theodore Price, Esq., having the Right Hon. Gentleman on his right.

The following is a record of sight-seeing under difficulties, which might have deterred a less persistent people:—

Oct. 20, 1823.—Ascent of Mr. Sadler.—The hoisting of a flag on the tower of St. Philip's Church, on Monday morning, announced the intention of Mr. Sadler to attempt an ascent with his balloon; and notwithstanding the very unfavourable state of the weather, thousands of the inhabitants were observed in all directions making their way towards the Crescent, the spot fixed upon for the ascent, while a still denser stream of our population directed their course towards Newhall Hill and other eminences around, commanding a view of the Crescent, and from which the ascent, though at some distance, could be seen with the best possible effect. In these situations the populace quietly remained during the process of inflation, though the rain continued to descend in torrents, and almost without intermission, during the whole of the morning. As the hour fixed upon for the ascent drew near, our streets became almost wholly deserted, and many of the shops, as well as the different warehouses, were closed, the attraction being too great to be resisted, whether by masters or servants; indeed, since the ascent of Mr. Sadler from Vauxhall in 1811, we do not recollect any instance in which public curiosity was more generally excited.

The exhaustless charity of the Birmingham people now found another field for its benificence. In this year the Eye Hospital was established. The report of the meeting gives its object and constitution :—

Nov. 24, 1823.—At a Meeting held this day, for the purpose of establishing in Birmingham an Infirmary for the Relief of the Poor afflicted with Diseases of the Eye; The High Bailiff, in the Chair;

It was resolved unanimously,—

1. That, in the opinion of this meeting, it will be highly beneficial to the labouring classes of this populous town and neighbourhood, that an Institution should be formed for the Relief of the Poor afflicted with Diseases of the Eye.

2. That this Institution shall be called "The Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye, established in Birmingham," and shall be supported by Contributions, Legacies, and Annual Subscriptions.

3. That every Annual Subscriber of One Gninea, or Donor of Five Guineas, shall be a Governor, and possess the right of recommending an unlimited number of patients.

4. That in the Governors shall be vested the power of making the Rules and Regulations, of electing Officers, and appointing a Committee for the purpose of conducting the business of the Infirmary; that a Meeting of the Governors shall take place annually on the Third Monday in October, or at any other time when summoned by the Committee.

5. That the Committee shall consist of not more than twenty Governors, that it shall meet quarterly, or oftener if found necessary; that at each Meeting a Member present shall be nominated Chairman, and that three Members shall form a quorum.

6. That the following Gentlemen shall form the Committee for the present year, namely :—

The High Bailiff,	J. F. Ledsam, Esq.,
The Low Bailiff,	Thomas Attwood, Esq.
The Rev. J. H. Spry,	Charles Cope, Esq.,
The Rev. J. Fenwick,	W. Blakeway, Esq.,
Richard Spooner, Esq.,	G. Burrish, Esq.,
S. T. Galton, Esq.,	P. M. James, Esq.,
J. F. Lawrence, Esq.,	Timothy Smith, Esq.,
The Rev. J. Corrie,	T. G. Simeon, Esq.,
Joseph Walker, Esq.,	J. Scholefield, Esq.,
George Attwood, Esq.,	W. Patten, Esq.

7. That the Medical Officers consist of one Physician, one Surgeon, and one Assistant Surgeon.

8. That Dr. De Lys be appointed Physician, Mr. Hodgson, Surgeon, and Mr. J. F. Ledsam, Assistant Surgeon to the Infirmary.

9. That this Meeting be adjourned to a day to be named by the Committee, for the purpose of receiving a report of their proceedings.

The High Bailiff having left the Chair, and the same having been taken by the Low Bailiff,

It was resolved unanimously,—That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the High Bailiff for his able conduct in the Chair.

Donations and Subscriptions are received by the Treasurers, Messrs. Attwood, Spooner, & Co., Bankers, Birmingham.

It was due to the energy and persistence of Mr. Hodgson, the first Surgeon of the new charity, that this Hospital was established. Some estimate of the good which it has been enabled to do may be formed when we state, that since its foundation in 1823 to the end of 1867, no fewer than 137,273 patients have been relieved at this institution. The following is the annual statement from March 31st, 1866, to March 31st, 1867: In-patients, 583; out-patients, 6,810; operations on patients blind with cataract, 122; other operations, 1,605; gross number of patients relieved, 137,273; number of beds, 50. Income, including donations, legacies, &c., £1,757 14s. 5d. Expenditure, £1,842 11s. 3d. Officers of the Charity: committee of governors, 20; consulting surgeons, 2; honorary surgeons, 4; resident surgeon, 1; treasurer, auditors, secretary, and matron. Mortgage debt, £2,000; debt on current expenditure, £769 11s. 3d.

The year 1823 closed with a work of Charity, and very early in 1824 another was commenced. Birmingham being a free town to which all adventurous spirits could resort without fear as to their citizenship, it is not surprising that a large number of Welshmen were found amongst

its inhabitants. One of its crosses was called the Welsh Cross; and the number of that race must have been considerable when the wealthy found it incumbent upon them to form a St. David's Society, for the purpose of assisting the poor. The report of this good work appeared on March 8, 1824:—

At a Meeting of the Gentlemen connected with the Principality of Wales, held at the Royal Hotel, Birmingham, on Monday, the 1st of March, 1824, in pursuance of a public advertisement, for the purpose of taking into consideration the practicability of establishing a Welsh Charity; Edward Lloyd Williams, Esq., in the Chair;

Resolved,—That it appears to this Meeting, from the Report of Gentlemen well acquainted with Birmingham and its vicinity, that there are a very considerable number of poor persons, connected with the Principality of Wales, resident in the town and neighbourhood, whose families require the aid of the more opulent.

Resolved,—That a Society be formed, to be called "The Birmingham St. David's Society," its object being to assist in educating and clothing Children of Welsh Parentage, not having parochial settlement in Warwickshire or the adjoining counties.

Resolved,—That a Fund for that purpose be established by annual Subscriptions and Donations; and that Gentlemen and Ladies connected with the Principality be requested to lend their assistance in furthering the object of this Meeting.

That Dr. Birt Davies be appointed Treasurer.

That the Rev. Benjamin Howell be appointed Secretary.

That the following Gentlemen, with the Treasurer and Secretary, be appointed a Committee to manage the affairs of the Institution for the ensuing year, with power to add to their number:—

Rev. John Corrie,	John Morton Ledsam, Esq.,
Mr. Henry Evans,	J. F. Ledsam, Esq.,
Rev. John Howells,	Mr. Edward T. Moore,
Clement Ingleby, Esq.,	Mr. R. Roberts,
Mr. Kendrick,	Mr. John Reece,
Thomas Eyre Lee, Esq.,	Edw. Lloyd Williams, Esq.

EDW. LLOYD WILLIAMS, Chairman.

The Chairman having left the chair,

Resolved,—That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman for his able conduct in the chair.

BENJAMIN HOWELL, Sec.

Subscriptions and Donations will be received at the Bank of Messrs. Taylors and Lloyds; by Dr. Birt Davies, Treasurer, No. 12, Colmore Row; the Rev. B. Howell, Secretary, Great Brooke Street, Ashted; and at the Office of the Birmingham Gazette.

The next paragraph records the abolition of a curious custom in one of our trades, the existence of which seems almost incredible:—

March 15, 1824.—The voluntary abandonment, by the Master Cockfounders of this town and neighbourhood, of the practice of deducting a per centage in settling with their

journeymen at the close of each week, is an example well deserving the imitation of other manufacturers.

A meeting was held on September 3, at which it was resolved :—

That a Railroad from the town of Birmingham, through the Staffordshire Collieries and Iron Works, by Wolverhampton, Nantwich, and Chester, to the Mersey, to communicate with the town of Liverpool; with branches to Dudley and Stourbridge, to the Shropshire Coal and Iron Works, to the Staffordshire Potteries, and to Chester, would be of the greatest advantage to the above-mentioned places and districts, and productive of essential benefit to the nation at large.

It was also resolved that a company be formed for this object, and that the capital be £600,000, divided into 12,000 shares of £50 each.

The Catholics of this town held a meeting for the purposes given in the following report :—

Sept. 27, 1824.—On Wednesday last a public meeting of the Catholics of the Midland Counties was held at the Royal Hotel, in this town, for the purpose of forming a Catholic Association, in connection with that established in the metropolis. The chair was filled by Edward Blount, Esq., by whom the plan and objects of the association were detailed. A number of resolutions were entered into, the most important of which were the two following :—1. "That this meeting highly approves of the plan and objects of the British Catholic Association, and hereby forms itself into a branch of the said association, under the name of the Midland Branch Catholic Association. 2. That the basis on which this Association is founded is the right, which every man possesses, of worshipping God according to the dictates of his conscience, without being subjected on that account to any civil pains, penalties, or disabilities whatsoever. That, in accordance with the principle above declared, we solemnly protest against being called upon, as the condition of enjoying our civil rights, to take any oath, or make any declaration, or submit to any arrangements which may, in the remotest degree, affect the most free exercise of our religion; but, as we have already taken, so we shall be at all future times prepared to take, any oath approved by our ecclesiastical superiors, which will perfectly secure our most full and complete allegiance in all civil concerns to the government of our country." Francis Canning, Esq., the Rev. Messrs. M'Donnell, Rock, Wareing, Martyn, Peach, Caestrych, and others, took part in the proceedings of the day. Mr. Blount was elected chairman of the new association; Mr. Hardman, treasurer; and the Rev. T. M. M'Donnell, secretary and chairman of the Committee.

In reference to this subject the following notice appeared on November 29 :—

The Catholics of the Midland District, comprising the counties of Warwick, Stafford, Worcester, and Salop, finding that the designation which they had assumed, as forming a branch of the General British Catholic Association was illegal, have formed themselves into a distinct society, to be called the Midland Catholic Association.

The railroad mania was now beginning :—

New Rail-Road Companies.

December 20, 1824.—During the past week, the rage to obtain rail-road shares has risen in this town to a most extraordinary height, and the newly-formed companies have afforded extensive opportunities to those eager for speculation. At a meeting of gentlemen interested in the intended Birmingham and Liverpool Rail-road, held on Wednesday last, at the Royal Hotel, in this town, Robert Smith, Esq., High Bailiff, in the chair, it was resolved that a rail-road from this town to the city of London, connected with the proposed Liverpool rail-road, and furnishing a direct and rapid communication across the country from the port of London to that of Liverpool, would facilitate the intercourse with Ireland, and be of the highest national advantage; and that a company be forthwith formed, with a capital of one million sterling, divided into 20,000 shares, at £50 each. A committee was then formed of six and twenty individuals for the purpose of carrying the resolution into effect, with power to add to their number, and to increase the capital by additional shares if necessary.

Messrs. Attwood, Spooner, and Co. were appointed treasurers, and Mr. Barker, solicitor to the company. Names were immediately subscribed for a great number of shares, and the book being removed to the treasurers, those allotted to this town were all engaged in the course of that and the following day.

Intimation of the establishment of the Company at Bristol reached this town on Tuesday morning, and becoming soon spread abroad, the Bank of Messrs. Attwoods and Co. was thronged by persons desirous of subscribing their names, and such was the eagerness displayed that the number of shares appropriated to this place (2,500) was engaged in less than two hours afterwards. Many who were disappointed in obtaining shares did not hesitate immediately to offer premiums, and shares rapidily advanced until they reached £7 premium. The frequent obstruction in the Severn Navigation, and the consequent delays so long and justly complained of by the manufacturers and others interested in that line of conveyance, will perhaps account for the avidity with which shares in this proposed undertaking have been sought after.

The following is a very interesting account of one of our most useful private charities :—

Lench's Trust.

Dec. 27, 1824.—We have pleasure in giving publicity to the following interesting account of a charity that has long existed in this town, but which, notwithstanding its extent and usefulness, is, perhaps, but little known to the great majority of our readers. Comparing the good it effects with the means employed, it is perhaps unequalled; and, certainly we are aware of no institution more eagerly sought after by those for whose benefit it is designed. On Tuesday last, being St. Thomas's day, the Bailiff of Lench's Trust (the present Low Bailiff of this Town) paid the usual gratuity of ten shillings to each of the 112 occupants of the alms-houses, who are principally widows. There are at this time nearly a hundred applicants for admission; and such is the attention paid by the trust to the comfort of the inhabitants, that but four deaths have occurred during the last two years, although there are forty between 70 and 80 years of age, eighteen between 80 and 90, and five upwards. Several have occupied their rooms from 20 to 30 years, a few more than 40, and one individual not less than 50 years, and who is now nearly one hundred years old, scarcely any of them being under 60. Of late years, to render the charity

beneficial to the most needy, it has been the custom not to admit any much under 70 years of age. They receive quarterly five shillings each; but at this season of the year the trustees have thought it right to double the usual allowance.

The founder of this excellent and well appropriated charity died in the reign of Henry VIII., and bequeathed a small sum for the benefit of the poor, and in part for the paving and improvement of the town. The present income, however, does not all arise from his bequest, for more than one benevolent individual since his time have bequeathed to the same trust property to be applied by them for the benefit of the poor of this place, at their own discretion. The late Mrs. Scott, of New Street, some few years back, enabled the trustees to build one side row of the almshouses situated in Dudley Street, and at her decease she endowed them.

The original buildings for this purpose are those in Steelhouse Lane, containing 42 rooms; next, those in Dudley Street, containing 38; and lastly, those in Park Street, containing 32 room, making a total of 112, which, being erected at an average of perhaps not more than £40 a room, supply as many comforts in proportion to the expenditure as perhaps any institution for the poor can exhibit.

During the year 1824 Dr. Birt Davies had written a series of eloquent letters, advocating the establishment of a House of Recovery, or Fever Hospital, in this town. The subject was taken up, and it was resolved to add this institution to our other charities. A meeting was held and a committee appointed. The following is the report of their first meeting:—

Jan. 3, 1825.—At a Meeting of the Committee for the Establishment of a House of Recovery, or Fever Hospital, in Birmingham, held at the Stork Tavern, on Wednesday, the 29th of December, 1824, present,

The Rev. Edward Burn, in the Chair,

F. Lawley, Esq., M.P.,	Mr. Unett,
James Taylor, Esq.,	Mr. Dunbar,
W. C. Russell, Esq.,	Mr. Meredith,
Mr. Lee,	Mr. Beale,
Dr. John Johnson,	Mr. Arnold,
Mr. C. Cope,	Mr. C. Ingleby,
Mr. W. W. Smith,	Dr. Birt Davies.

Resolved,—That the Rules and Regulations now read, be the Rules and Regulations of the House of Recovery, or Fever Hospital, subject to the approbation of a general Meeting, or Board of the Governors.

It appearing from a statement laid before this Meeting that it will require a subscription of £400 a year to support the House of Recovery, Resolved,—That the following Gentlemen, viz., Mr. W. W. Smith, Mr. C. Ingleby, Dr. Birt Davies, Mr. Haughton, Mr. Jackson, Mr. James Mason, Mr. Dunbar, Mr. Bower, Mr. Gem, Mr. Haynes, and Mr. Unett, be requested to solicit annual subscriptions; and when the sum of £300 shall be subscribed, that a general Board be held for the purpose of confirming the Rules, and of appointing Officers to the Institution.

That Mr. C. Cope, Mr. Beale, and Dr. Davies, be requested to made inquires for an eligible building in the vicinity of the Town for the House of Recovery; ascertain the terms upon which the same may be rented, and report the result of their inquires to the Committee previous to the General Board.

That these resolutions be advertised in the Birmingham Newspapers, and that subscription Lists do lie at the several Banks in the town.

EDWARD BURN, Chairman.

The next work of the new year was also one of Charity:—

SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF POOR AGED WOMEN.

January 24, 1825.—The state of extreme wretchedness and destitution in which great numbers of Women pass the latter term of their existence, after the season for active exertion has gone by, will be allowed to give them a powerful claim to assistance. It is proposed, therefore, to form a "Society for the Relief of Poor Infirm Aged Women," resident in this town and neighbourhood, and the kind co-operation of the benevolent is earnestly requested for the furtherance of this measure.

With a view to bring the design and objects of the proposed Society effectually before the public, it is intended that the Meeting should be held on Friday next, the 28th of January, at eleven for twelve o'clock precisely, at the Blue Coat School, on which occasion the attendance of those who may take an interest in the proposed Society, and feel desirous of supporting it, is respectfully solicited.

JAMES MOORE, A.M., } Provisional
JAMES PEARSON, } Secretaries.

Our next quotation is the report of the first annual meeting of the St. David's Society:—

BIRMINGHAM ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY.

March 7, 1825.—The first Anniversary Meeting of the Subscribers to this Society was held on Tuesday last, at the Royal Hotel, in this town. The chair was taken by Edward Lloyd Williams, Esq., President for the day. Among the resolutions of the meeting was one which authorises the committee to place five children, conformably to the rules of the institution, in the Birmingham Blue Coat School, to be maintained and educated at the expense of the St. David's Society. When the business of the meeting was disposed of, several members of the Society dined together. In the course of the evening several loyal and patriotic toasts were given, among which was, "To the pious memory of St. David." Many candidates have already applied for admission into the schools, but the present funds, though rapidly increasing, will not at present sustain the expense of one-fifth of the applicants. The annual subscriptions amount to about £80, and we are happy to learn that persons from various parts of England and Wales have become contributors.

If any doubt existed before as to the necessity of this institution, that doubt must be removed from the minds of all when it is stated, on most respectable authority, that there are not less than between five and seven thousand Welsh families residing within fourteen miles of Birmingham, most of whom consist of the labouring class, far removed from their native land, subjected to a variety of difficulties and deprivations, and not entitled to parochial settlement in England; and when the benevolent objects of the society are

properly understood and appreciated, there will be, doubtless, a general disposition manifested amongst our opulent fellow townsmen and neighbours, but more especially amongst respectable persons connected with the Principality of Wales (either by descent, birth, relationship, property, or trade), to countenance and support this good cause. It must be peculiarly gratifying to the generous heart of a Welshman to see ten or twenty children of Welsh parents rescued from wretchedness, ignorance, and profligacy, and comfortably maintained and educated in such an excellent institution as the Blue Coat School.

The manufacturers of the time must have read the following paragraph with great pleasure :—

March 14, 1825.—The Petition from the Chamber of Manufactures and Commerce of this town, praying a reduction of duties upon the importation of iron, copper, and other metals, was presented to the House of Commons, by Mr. Lawley, on Friday. Mr. Huskisson, President of the Board of Trade, in consequence, stated that he should, on the 21st instant, submit certain resolutions to the House, with a view of affording increased facilities to commerce and navigation, in which it would be proposed to make such a change as would admit the importation of iron, copper, brass, tin, and other foreign minerals into this country. Mr. Lyttelton said he had conversed with some of the principal ironmasters on the subject of a reduction of the import duty upon iron, and that they were quite content, and admitted the utility and sound policy of a reduction taking place.

The next advertisement is the first announcement of the publication of the *Birmingham Journal* :—

NEW BIRMINGHAM PAPER.

April 18, 1825.– On Saturday, the 4th day of June next, will be published a new weekly paper, to be entitled THE BIRMINGHAM JOURNAL. A prospectus, setting forth the expediency of introducing the same, and the principles of its government, will, in a few days, be circulated throughout the extensive, populous, and important districts of this and the adjoining counties.

The Birmingham Journal, containing the Foreign Intelligence received in London to the latest period on the preceding evening, Parliamentary Proceedings, a correct report of the London and Provincial Markets, with a judiciously selected mass of important local information, will be published precisely at *twelve o'clock* every Saturday morning. By this arrangement, and through the medium of its agencies, it will be circulated throughout a district of twenty-five miles round Birmingham THE SAME EVENING, and in the principal towns in the kingdom early on the following morning.

Printed and published for the Proprietors by William Hodgetts, No. 16, Spiceal-street (opposite St. Martin's Church) to whom, or to the Editor, all communications (free of postage) are requested to be addressed.

Agents in London, Messrs. Newton and Co., No. 5, Warwick Square, and Mr. Barker, No. 33, Fleet-street.

The anniversary meeting of the New Catholic Association is thus briefly reported :—

May 2, 1825.—The members of the Midland Catholic Association held their Anniversary Meeting at the Royal Hotel, in this town, on Thursday last, Edward

Blount, Esq., in the chair. Mr. O'Connell arrived in town time enough to take part in the proceedings, and addressed the meeting in a speech occupying about two hours. The Association afterwards entertained their Chairman and Visitors at dinner, and the company did not break up till a late hour.

On May 17 petitions both for and against Catholic Emancipation were presented to the House of Lords from this town. The one in opposition to concession by the Lord Chancellor, and the other, strangely enough, by Lord Calthorpe.

On May 20 the Royal assent was given to the Birmingham New Gas-light Company's Bill.

In this year was commenced the building of St. Peter's Church, Dale End :—

August 1, 1825.—The corner-stone of a church, dedicated to St. Peter, in course of erection in Dale End, in this town, was laid with due ceremonial, on the part of those officially concerned, on the morning of Tuesday last. Two of the Local Commissioners, the Rev. L. Gardner, D.D., Rector of St. Philip's, the parish in which the structure is to be raised; and James Taylor, of Moor Green, Esq., with their Solicitor, the Architects, and a number of the clergy of the town, assembled to breakfast at the Royal Hotel, and soon after ten moved in procession to the spot where the formalities usual on such occasions were observed, and the stone, under which some coins of the present reign were deposited, was lowered into its position. The ceremony being concluded, an appropriate prayer was offered up by Dr. Gardner, after which the procession returned to the hotel. The brass plate embedded in the mortar immediately under the stone bears the following inscription :—

"The first stone of a new Church, dedicated to St. Peter, was laid on the 26th day of July, 1825, by the Rev. Charles Curtis, the Rev. Lawrence Gardner, D.D., and James Taylor, Esq., the Local Commissioners for building Churches in this district. The expense of the site and structure, amounting to £19,676 2s. 11d., was defrayed out of a Parliamentary Grant of £1,000,000. The Hon. and Right Rev. Henry Ryder, D.D., Lord Bishop of the Diocese; the Rev. Lawrence Gardner, D.D., Rector of the Parish; John Welchman Whateley, and John Cope, Churchwardens of the Parish; Rickman and Hutchinson, Architects."

The master tailors seem to have been frequently engaged in trade disputes with their men. In 1777 there was one rendered famous by being the first on record in which the men proposed the now popular method of co-operation. We have here the record of another dispute, of which only the masters' account is published. The laws against combination were then so severely used against the men, that we doubt not the masters fully carried out their threat of prosecution. It is also curious to notice that the masters in this case adopt a system which it

has often been alleged belongs entirely to the men. They will not give employment to those who continue members of the "original House of Call, the Three Crowns, in Worcester Street." We wish that the men's record of this contest had been preserved :—

To Journeymen Tailors.

September 19, 1825.—Wanted immediately, a number of Journeymen Tailors. Good steady workmen will meet with constant employment, at 27s. per week—day or piece work, by applying to

Catstree, New Street	Dabbs, Snow Hill
Bate, New Street	Cadby, Aston Road
Gresley & M'Bryd, Union Street	Forster, Newhall Street
English, Cherry Street	Herbert, Colmore Row
Allport, ditto	Minshull, Ann Street
Hatton, ditto	Waring, Ann Street
Johnson, Summer Lane	Pigg, Suffolk Street
Henshaw, St. Paul's Square	Sabel, ditto
Bull, Livery Street	Wilson, King Street

N.B.—Gentlemen are particularly solicited to allow as much time as possible with their orders, to admit of their being sent to town to be executed.

The Master Tailors would not trouble the Public with a recital of any of their grievances, but from the untrue statements of their Journeymen in their advertisement in the Chronicle of Thursday last.

We now beg leave respectfully to state, that we never took any part in regulating or agreeing to their list of prices in April last, but were obliged to submit to the imposition of paying them upwards of 30s. per week, under the mask of what they are now pleased to call twenty-seven shillings.

We have since offered them 27s. per week day-work (the nominal value of their demand) and would willingly have given good coat hands 28s. or 29s., according to merit. To our requisition at that time, for them to appoint a deputation to meet a similar deputation of Masters, to simplify their list into day-work, or make such alteration as would tend to the interest of both parties, we need only add their reply, in order to convince a discerning public how unwilling the men were to come to any terms of amicable adjustment.

Copy of the Journeymen's reply above referred to, addressed to the Secretary, Mr. Bate, New Street :—

"Sir, in answer to yours I have to inform you it is our determination to stand or fall by the list you have been presented with, and not to rob masters who have promised to support us.

"N.B.—We are ready to serve you or any other master on the same terms.

"Yours obediently,

April 12, 1825." "John Taylor, Secretary.

The Public will at once see by the above letter the combination we have to cope with; and it is chiefly by a reliance on their indulgence for a short period, in the way

pointed out as above, that we hope to ensure complete success. The failure of their funds will at once take from them the power of unlawfully bribing and enlisting those men who are willing to work by the new list. Their threats deter steady workmen from returning to their duty; and offers are held out by the society to induce them to leave their employers.

It is now our determination to prosecute those misguided individuals who may in future be detected in the above practices; nor will we take any of them into our employment so long as they are members of the original House of Call, the Three Crowns, Worcester Street.

September 16, 1825.

Here is the first record we have of the Early Closing Movement :—

September 26, 1825.—The Inhabitants of Birmingham and its vicinity are most respectfully informed, that a numerous Meeting of Linen and Woollen Drapers, Silk Mercers, Haberdashers, Lacemen, Hatters and Hosiers of Birmingham, held at the Royal Hotel, the 21st of September, 1825, to take into consideration the respectful appeal of their Assistants, soliciting to be liberated at an earlier hour in the evening from business, in order to afford them better opportunity for recreation and mental improvement, it was resolved,—That it is highly expedient for the health and comfort of those engaged in retail trades, that Business should be closed at an earlier hour than has been customary, and to carry this salutary measure into effect, it was unanimously agreed to close the Shops during Summer at nine o'clock, from the 1st of March to the 1st of September, and in the Winter at eight o'clock, from the 1st of September to the 1st of March inclusive (Saturdays excepted) to commence on the 1st of October next.

Signed by desire, and on behalf of the Meeting,

R. T. Cadbury, Chairman.

Another new Church is to be added to the list:—

October 10, 1825.—The Local Commissioners for the building of Churches in this town met on Saturday morning last, to decide, from among the various designs and estimates submitted to them, upon a plan for the erection of the new Church intended to be built at Holloway Head, when we understand the one made choice of was that furnished by Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinson, under whose superintendence the work will therefore be carried into execution.

Richard Pratchet was one of the most active of our public men, and as a Commissioner was indefatigable in carrying out improvements. He died "at his home, Sand Pits, near this town," on July 4, 1824, aged 67. It was resolved to acknowledge his public services with a monument. The execution of this memorial was entrusted to our townsman, Mr. Hollins, and in November, 1825, the work was placed in St. Martin's Church.

The close of the year was marked by one of those failures which so disastrously affect a trading community. On December 17, the

Banking House of Gibbons, Smith, and Goode, suspended payment. In the *Gazette* on Monday, the fact was thus notified :—

Dec. 19, 1825.—It is with sincere regret we state that on Saturday morning the Banking House of Messrs. Gibbons, Smith, and Goode, instead of opening for business as usual, exhibited the following notice :—"It is with the deepest concern that Messrs. Gibbons, Smith, and Goode, find it necessary, from the pressure they have for many weeks been under, to suspend their payments.

"At the same time they feel confident that the Assets of the Bank will be found equal to meet all its engagements.

"Saturday December 17."

The statement made in the last paragraph of this notice proved to be correct. In the end the creditors were paid in full.

I have previously recorded the unsuccessful efforts made in 1808 and 1811 to organise a Water Works Company. Of course the accomplishment of such an object could only be delayed, not permanently defeated, by opposition. It took, however, fourteen years more before the instruction of experience led to success; and it was not until the year 1825 that the act was obtained. The Birmingham Water Works Company was in this year incorporated by an Act of Parliament, 7 Geo. IV., cap. 109. The capital of the Company was £120,000, raised in shares of £25 each, with power to raise £30,000 additional if required. The Government Inspector, Mr. Robert Rawlinson, in his Report of the sanitary condition of Birmingham in 1849, says: "The principal reservoir is situated at Aston juxta Birmingham, and the water is admitted into it from the river Tame; the area of this reservoir is about 747,000 square feet; there is no filter bed, but the water passes through large canvas strainers, which can be removed for cleansing. This reservoir was constructed in 1831, and it has been twice cleaned out since it was opened. Near this reservoir two lifting engines of 90-horse power each, force the water into an upper reservoir, situated to the west of the town, and which is at an elevation of 252 feet above the river, which commands the greater portion of it. All the conduit pipes are of iron; the small service pipes are of lead; and most of the cisterns are lined with lead." At first the supply was intermittent, on three days in the week; and in 1849 about one-third of the town was supplied.

In 1826 there was another dispute in the Boot and Shoe trade. It is a misfortune that in so many of these early trade quarrels we have only the statement of the masters :—

January 23, 1826.—To the Public.—The Master Boot and Shoe makers of Birmingham respectfully inform the Public, that in consequence of their Journeymen refusing to work without an advance of wages, which, after mature deliberation, they feel persuaded they cannot in justice, not only to the public and themselves, but even to the Journeymen, consent to give, they beg leave to solicit its indulgence in the execution of orders, as it must be obvious that they cannot execute them with their usual promptitude until they have obtained other men, which they will endeavour to do as speedily as possible, being unanimously determined to submit no longer to the tyrannical dictation of their Journeymen.

A Town's Meeting was held in March, on the subject of Free Trade and the Corn Laws. A series of resolutions were proposed and, with one exception, carried unanimously. "The series, as originally framed by the Committee of Requisitionists was moved by Mr. Turner; the first was, however, objected to by Mr. Richard Spooner, because it did not merely ask for a reformation of the Corn Laws, but contained a general expression of approbation of the conduct of Ministers, with which he was unwilling to concur; he therefore submitted an amendment, expressive of the opinion of the meeting that sufficient attention had not been given by Government to the subject, which, being more in accordance with the great body of those assembled, was carried by a large majority. Mr. Ostler, and Mr. Turner in vain attempted to defend the resolutions as originally worded, the latter gentleman contending that the amendment, if carried, would deprive the petitions of many names which it was most desirable they should contain. Mr. Spooner replied previous to its being put to the vote." The following is a copy of Mr. Spooner's amendment. It was seconded by Mr. John Towers Lawrence :—

That this meeting is willing at once to recognise the truth of the principles of free trade, and would willingly concur with his Majesty's Ministers in the adoption of such measures as may tend to the progressive removal of those restrictions on commerce and manufactures which so long obstructed the industry and resources of the country; but this meeting cannot, at the same time, help expressing its opinion that sufficient attention has not been paid to the interests which have grown up under the restrictive system, and that the first application of those principles ought to have been to the trade in corn, a branch so important as in a great degree to affect, and even to regulate every other.

The commercial distrust and the consequent distress were so great this year, that unusual efforts were made to avert the evils. There were distress riots in various parts of the country; and the commencement of that great agitation for free trade which ended in the repeal of the corn laws may be dated from this time. In order somewhat to relieve the commercial distress, a large loan was issued by the Bank of England for the accommodation of the trading world. A sum of £300,000 was apportioned to this town, and Mr. Theodore Price, the Rev. John Corrie, Thomes Lee, W. C. Russell, and Benjamin Wright were appointed commissioners for its distribution.

The principal manufacturers of the town issued the following manifesto :—

We, the undermentioned manufacturers of the town of Birmingham, think it our duty to make known to his Majesty's Government the following statement of facts :—

1st. For the last six months we have experienced a great, continual, and progressive falling off in the demand for our manufactures, and an increasing difficulty in obtaining payment of our debts due from even the most responsible houses.

2nd. That in order to meet this state of trade, we have been compelled to dismiss great numbers of our workmen, and have generally placed the remainder of them upon four, three, and even two days' work per week.

3rd. That, notwithstanding these distressing reductions in the employment of our workmen, we find that the diminished demand for our manufactures requires still further sacrifices; that we are keeping open our manufactories at a great and positive loss, and many of us apprehend that it will be necessary for us to close them altogether, unless his Majesty's Ministers can devise some measures for our relief.

4th. That some of us, whose names are hereto affixed, have been manufacturers in this town from forty to fifty years, and that during that eventful period we never experienced difficulties of a character so universal and overwhelming as those in which we are now involved.

5th. We also think it our duty to represent that hitherto some subsistence has been obtained by the working classes from their past savings, and the sale of clothes and furniture; but that we contemplate with great alarm the rapid exhaustion of these means, and the longer continuance of so great a population out of employment.

Birmingham, July 13, 1826.

The following notice is honourable to the printers of the town :—

DISTRESSED PRINTERS IN LONDON.

September 18, 1826.—The attention of the Journeymen Printers of Birmingham having been called to the unprecedented distress existing in the Metropolis, from the very great dearth of the printing business, a meeting of the trade was held on the 30th of August, to adopt such measures as might afford some temporary relief to their distressed brethren.

A very handsome subscription was then entered into; and on a representation of the same being made to the principal masters, they most liberally aided the cause; whereby the Committee have been able to transmit £25 to the Committee in London. The number destitute of employment is without precedent, and there being no immediate prospect of a revival of business, the Birmingham Committee are induced humbly to solicit the aid of a generous public towards the alleviation of the great misery entailed on numerous families, there being at this time upwards of 2,000 totally destitute of employment. Subscriptions will be received by the respective booksellers of this town.

The foundation stone of St. Thomas's Church, Holloway Head, was laid by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, on Monday, October 2, with the usual pomp and ceremony.

The next extract records the arrival in Birmingham of the first steam Canal Boat :—

STEAM CANAL BOAT.

October 2, 1826.—A Steam Canal Boat arrived in this town on Friday last, from London, carrying twenty tons, and is the first successful attempt ever made. The steam is generated with the Patent Duplex Generators, upon an entirely new principle, without a boiler, and without danger. The weight of the machinery does not exceed four tons. Her consumption of coal upon the trip was one ton. She has a wheel in the stern, upon an improved construction, that is capable of being raised up on entering a lock. The average of her speed was equal to that of the fly boats. She passed through the long tunnel, one mile and three-fourths, in forty minutes, and towed another boat carrying ten tons, without sensibly diminishing her speed. No inconvenience was experienced from the smoke. Great curiosity was excited on the banks of the canal by this novel mode of travelling, and at one time she had no less than fifty passengers upon her deck. The result of this experiment has been perfectly satisfactory, and when the machinery is applied to regular canal boats of a suitable construction, it is calculated that one whole day will be saved in the time between London and Birmingham. It is the intention of the proprietors to establish a line of steam boats immediately. This machinery, from its lightness, is peculiarly adapted for shoal rivers and canals; and the Patentee, who is now in town, will dispose of exclusive privileges for any part of the country, upon very reasonable terms.

Here is the report of another meeting on the subject of free trade :—

CHAMBER OF MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE AT BIRMINGHAM.

November 13, 1826.—At a Special General Meeting of the Members, held in Cannon Street this day, for the purpose of taking into consideration the Propriety of Petitioning the Legislature for a Revision of the Laws for regulating the Importation of Foreign Corn;

S. TERTIUS GALTON, ESQ., in the Chair;

It was resolved :—

1st.—That after the adoption and application of those free principles of trade which have been so ably advocated by his Majesty's Ministers, and sanctioned by both Houses of Parliament, it becomes an act of legislative justice towards the commercial part of the community so to modify the Laws for regulating the Importation of Corn as to accord with those principles.

2nd.—That the present system of Corn Laws, by increasing the wages of labour, by precluding other nations from making suitable returns for an extended demand for our manufactures, by affording a pretext for their exclusion by high duties, and by causing sudden fluctuations in the price of subsistence, tends to depress the manufacturing and commercial interests of this country, and to subject the growers and consumers of corn to the most distressing vicissitudes.

3rd.—That this Meeting trusts that the modification of the Corn Laws requisite for accommodating them to the late salutary alterations in the manufacturing and commercial policy of this country, must eventually promote the welfare of the agriculturists themselves, by its tendency to prevent great and sudden variations in price at home, and in foreign states retaliatory laws and hostile feelings towards this nation, which in their effects cannot fail to depress its manufactures and commerce, upon whose prosperity the agriculturists greatly depend for the consumption of the various productions of the soil.

4th.—That this meeting, in urging the importance of such increased freedom in the foreign corn trade as shall be commensurate with the reduction of protecting duties upon imported manufactures, nevertheless unequivocally recognize the necessity of such degree of protection, both for the British Agriculturist and Manufacturer, as shall cover so much of the cost of production as is referable to the burthens sustained for discharging the public engagements of the country.

5th.—That Petitions founded upon the preceding Resolutions be presented to both Houses of Parliament, praying for a revision of the Corn Laws, with the view of making such alterations as to their wisdom may seem proper, for rendering them more compatible with the general interests of the British Nation.

6th.—That Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward and Lord Calthorpe be requested to present the petition to the House of Lords.

7th.—That Dugdale Stratford Dugdale, Esq., and Francis Lawley, Esq., the Representatives for the County of Warwick, be requested to present the petition to the House of Commons.

8th.—That the preceding Resolutions be printed and advertised under the direction of the Committee.

S. Tertius Galton, Chairman.

The petition adopted at this meeting was presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Dugdale, on October 28. The following brief paragraph records the dangers which men incurred, and the punishments they endured, before England obtained the full liberty of a "free and unlicensed" press.

Jan. 1, 1827.—Edward Clegg and George Taylor were last week committed by our Magistrates to Warwick House of Correction for three months each, for selling unstamped almanacks, commonly called "Paddy's Watch."

The first attempt at founding a Savings' Bank was not successful, and this year another was made, and a bank established which had a long and prosperous existence. At a meeting held on May 16, Mr.

George Attwood, High Bailiff, in the chair, it was unanimously resolved to institute a Savings' Bank and Friendly Society, for the benefit of the working classes of this town and neighbourhood. The Bank was opened on May 24, and by July the 9th it was announced that the "deposits already invested at the Bank of England amount to £2,300, and the list of depositors is formed of those classes of persons for whose benefit the institution is more particularly designed."

This Savings' Bank continued until the Government Post Office Savings' Banks were established, when, in 1862, full of years and rich in funds, its business was transferred to the government institution.

Here is another item of Church News :—

CONSECRATION OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

August 13, 1827.—On Friday, being the day appointed, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, after meeting Lord Dartmouth, the Hon. Mr. Legge, and the Local Commissioners, at the house of Dr. Gardner, Rector of St. Philips, where they partook of an elegant breakfast, proceeded to the consecration of St. Peter's, in Dale-end, at ten o'clock.

The interior, as well as the exterior of the edifice, was much admired; the style is Grecian, and reflects credit upon the Architects, Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinson. It is calculated to seat full 1,900 persons; the greater portion of the sittings are free. The expense of erection has proved to be £882 10s. 8d. less than the estimate, which was stated at £13,087. The whole has been undertaken by his Majesty's Commissioners for building new Churches and Chapels.

Public interest was excited to the utmost this year on the subject of Protestantism and Roman Catholicism. The Rev. Mr. M'Donnell was a very active priest of the Roman Catholic Church, and took part in all the public questions of the day, whether social, political, or religious. This year a discussion was arranged between him and the Rev. J. Burnet, of York. The following is the contemporary account of this event :—

August 13, 1827.—Public Discussion.—On Tuesday morning the Rev. J. Burnet, and the Rev. T. M. M'Donnell met, according to arrangement, in Mount Zion Chapel, and about eleven o'clock, entered upon the discussion announced in our last publication. Richard Spooner, Esq., of this town, and Eneas M'Donnell, Esq., of London, presided, the former as the Protestant, and the latter as the Catholic Chairman. Half an hour at a time was allotted to each speaker, which was closely observed. The attendance was numerous, and the proceedings commenced by Mr. Spooner reading the Regulations which were to govern the meeting, when the Rev. T. Burnet called upon the Rev. T. M. M'Donnell, to state the Catholic Rule of Faith, he was replied to by Mr. B., and an animated debate ensued. Soon after two o'clock Mr. Spooner dismissed the meeting

On Wednesday morning at eleven o'clock, the disputants took their station on the platform, and the proceedings commenced by Mr. E. M'Donnell reading the regulations, when Mr. M'Donnell called upon Mr. Burnet to define the Protestant Rule of Faith, to which Mr. M'Donnell replied, and the discussion was conducted as on the preceding day. We purposely abstain from any reference to the arguments. It was previously arranged that no outward expression of approbation or disapprobation should be allowed, and though more than once on each day there was an indication of the kind, it was checked and suppressed by the vigilance of the chair. After the termination of the discussion, thanks were given to the chairmen, and Mr. Eneas M'Donnell rose to acknowledge the compliment. In doing this, he stated that experienced as he was in public meetings, he had never witnessed one conducted in a way more honourable to the parties opposed to each other, or to an auditory. Mr. Eneas M'D. then proceeded to request of the meeting, that in reference to the resolutions of the society in which the discussion had originated, he might be allowed to meet them in that place on the following day, in order to correct what he deemed to be erroneous impressions, with respect to the education necessary for the Irish population; but the majority of the committee of the society to which reference was made being absent at the time, Mr. Spooner pointed out the impracticability of such a proceeding emanating from that meeting, at the same time, recommended that any proposal of the kind should be made in a formal manner, and in the proper quarter. This unexpected proposal threw the meeting in confusion for some time. The discussion was commenced without the nomination of an umpire by the chairman. The sum raised from tickets of admission amounts, we find, to upwards of £200, which, after defraying the expenses, is to be applied to two of our public institutions.

The following extracts relate to the Provident Society, and are interesting items in the social history of the town :—

September 3, 1827.—We regret to learn that upon a close examination into the state of the funds of the Provident Society, some years since established in this town, it clearly appears that the calculations upon which it was founded were fallacious, and that in consequence the funds must eventually prove very inadequate to meet the demands upon them. It has therefore been determined by the Honorary Members, in whose hands the management rests, that no additional members shall be admitted; and it remains for the Society at large to consider the most prudential course to be adopted in their present exigency. Instead, as has been suggested, of at once dissolving the society and dividing the funds among the contributing members as far as they will go, it is worthy of serious consideration whether it would not be a much wiser resolve for the members collectively to negociate for admittance, and transfer their funds, to the Friendly Society upon the best terms the regulations of the latter institution will allow. We feel strongly persuaded that such a step is, under all the circumstances, the best resource the members can avail themselves of, and therefore hope some plan to effect an incorporation so desirable will be recommended to them and ultimately adopted.

October 15, 1827.—At a meeting of the Provident Society, held at the Lancasterian School, in Severn Street, on Wednesday, 10th October, 1827, called for the purpose of taking into consideration the present state of the Funds, and to advise accordingly, Mr. Samuel Lloyd in the Chair:—The Honourable Members having represented to this

Meeting that it is totally impossible to continue the Provident Society, and pay the demands upon it according to the original rules of the Institution; Resolved—That the Society be dissolved at Christmas next, and that all Contributors, except the Honorary Members, be paid their proportion of the Funds in the manner directed by the Act of Parliament passed in the 39th year of the Reign of Geo. III.

That all payments to the Society be made good up to the 25th of December next, and that all the current expenses of the Society, including the pay to sick members and the usual funeral expenses, be paid up to the same time.

SAMUEL LLOYD, Chairman.

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman, not only for his kindness in acting as Treasurer for many years past, but for his conduct in the Chair this evening.

T. W. UNETT.

BIRMINGHAM FRIENDLY INSTITUTION.

November 5, 1827.—At a Special Meeting of the Trustees and Directors of the Friendly Institution, held at the Public Office, Birmingham, on Friday, November 2, for the purpose of taking into consideration the Report of a Select Committee of the House of Commons relative to Friendly Societies,

THOMAS LEE, Esq., in the Chair;

It was unanimously Resolved:—

1. That it is expedient to suspend the operations of this Society until the investigation now in progress for determining the probabilities of life be brought to a conclusion, and the laws affecting Benefit Societies be finally settled by the Legislature.

2. That it is with the deepest regret, and solely from a sense of duty to the public, and to avoid the probable occurrence of greater inconvenience hereafter, that the Directors of this Institution, in deference to the opinion expressed by a Select Committee of the House of Commons, have now resolved to suspend its operations for a time, convinced as they are that such a Society, when founded on a secure basis, and placed under judicious management, is calculated beyond all others to effect the most extensive and permanent good among the working classes. Until such time, therefore, as the Directors shall be enabled, under the sanction of the Legislature, with confidence to re-open the Friendly Institution for the admission of Members, they do most earnestly recommend their poorer neighbours generally, and those who had purposed entering the Institution in particular, to save all they can out of their weekly earnings, and deposit the amount in the Savings' Bank, where it will be secure, and gather interest, and be available at a time of need; or hereafter enable them to enter this Institution with increased advantage to themselves and their families.

THOMAS LEE, Chairman.

There is no Birmingham family now living whose name is so frequently met with in our annals, as the Lloyds. From the beginning of this Chronicle in 1741, to its conclusion in 1841, we find them busily engaged in all works of benevolence and public utility. Long before the first named year they were thus engaged in serving their native town; and their living representatives prove that the old blood

still runs in their veins, and that they possess the same will, and happily they possess the same power, to labour for the well-being of the community, of which they are such active and useful members. We have now to quote the obituary notice of one of the worthiest of this worthy family:—

January 21, 1828.—On Wednesday last, in the 80th year of his age, Charles Lloyd, Esq., Banker, of this town, a member of the Society of Friends. His long and active life was marked by great intelligence in business, unaffected piety, and zealous exertions to promote the welfare of his fellow creatures. How often has his simple yet impressive eloquence been heard amongst us, pleading the cause of the oppressed African, advocating the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures, and promoting the Education of the people! For the prosperity of the General Hospital he always manifested deep interest, and aided it by his personal exertions. As Treasurer, he kept the accounts with his own hand during a period of fifty years. In public subscriptions he set a generous example, and in private Charity he was most bountiful and kind. Cheerfulness and piety were mingled in his character with a simplicity truly patriarchal. Strict and conscientious in his own conduct, he manifested a christian and benevolent spirit in regard to others—and whilst he endeavoured to act up to the principles of the society in which he was educated, he felt unbounded love and charity, and prayed for the prosperity of all denominations of Christians. To a very numerous family he was ever a most affectionate father, counsellor and friend—setting them the example of a religious life and conversation; and reaping, during seasons of great trial and affliction, the divine consolations of his Lord and Master. Hopeful unto the end, he showed his mournful friends with what peace a Christian can die!

The spirit of active benevolence which has always been a distinguishing characteristic of the Birmingham people, was very busy this year, as the following extracts sufficiently prove:—

March 17, 1828.—It will be observed that, at a meeting of Subscribers on Tuesday last, it was resolved forthwith to establish a House of Recovery, or Fever Hospital in this town. A distinct fund for this object has been obtained by the perseverance of its original advocate, Dr. Birt Davies; and a committee has been appointed to take the necessary steps preparatory to its opening. Dr. John Johnstone, who was present at the meeting, and warmly expressed his approbation of the measure, was requested to accept the office of Consulting Physician, and Dr. Birt Davies, that of Physician to the institution.

March 24, 1828.—At a Meeting of the Committee of the Birmingham House of Recovery, convened by circular letters, and held at the Stork Hotel, in the Old Square, the 22nd day of March, 1828; The Rev. George Peake in the Chair;

Dr. Birt Davies having communicated to the Committee that an offer had been made to him of a House situated at the corner of Bishopsgate Street, and fronting Holloway Head, belonging to Mr. Henry Wingfield, and at an annual rent of £70, and which, from its being entirely detached from other habitations, erected in a spacious garden, in a complete state of repair, and possessing many local advantages, was, in his judgment, particularly well adapted for the purposes of the Institution; and some of the Committee

having been to view the House, and concurring in opinion with Dr. Birt Davies, that it is very suitable for the purpose;

Resolved—That the House above mentioned be immediately taken for the purposes of the Establishment.

April 21, 1828.—It will be seen that a self-supporting Dispensary for this town and neighbourhood has been determined upon. The first institution of the kind was established by Mr. Smith, at Southam, to whom the public is indebted for the principle, and for the zeal and perseverance with which he has advanced it. The plan of the present Dispensary, by which this new and important principle is first adapted to the peculiarities of a large and populous place, originated with a practitioner of this town. It embraces two objects—to supply medical aid to the mechanics and the labouring classes on terms suited to their circumstances, and to afford gratuitous assistance to such as reside beyond the limits of the Birmingham Dispensary, and are unable from their poverty to contribute for themselves. It is intended that patients shall have the privilege of choosing their surgeons, and that the latter shall supply their respective patients with medicine, by which means the expence of an establishment is avoided.

Birmingham has always been remarkable for its zealous Protestantism. We have already related the manner in which the Centenary of the Revolution of 1688 was celebrated in this town. The riots of 1791 were as much religious as political. It seems a fatal coincidence that in the following report of the formation of another Protestant Association, the name of the leader should be Gordon :—

July 21, 1828.—On Friday a Meeting was held at the Royal Hotel for the purpose of forming an Association in support of the "Society for Promoting the Religious Principles of the Reformation." The High Bailiff was called to the chair, and Captain Gordon, from the Parent Society, briefly stated the objects of the institution to be the promotion of the principles of the Reformation; assisting the local clergy of Ireland in the distribution of bibles and tracts; the publication of tracts in furtherance of protestantism; and the circulation of authentic information as to the moral and religious condition of that country; disclaiming at the same time all interference with politics, and holding out no temporal inducements to proselytism. The first resolution having been moved by the Rev. E. Burn, and seconded by Richard Spooner, Esq., the Rev. Mr. M'Donnell rose for the purpose of offering an amendment to the resolution. The rev. gentleman then stated his objections to the society at great length, and concluded by moving an immediate adjournment. Captain Gordon replied, confining his remarks to the points urged in objection by Mr. M'Donnell. The amendment was then put to the meeting, and negatived by a large majority. The Rev. Mr. Farrel, another catholic priest, followed, and was answered by Mr. Spooner. Mr. Finch, one of the deputation from the parent society, afterwards addressed the chair, and Mr. M'Donnell again spoke and moved a second amendment, which was negatived, and the original motion carried, after a forcible reply from Captain Gordon. The High Bailiff soon afterwards quitted the chair, and the thanks of the meeting were given to him. Towards the close of the proceedings much confusion prevailed, and it was with great difficulty order could at all be preserved. The frequent interruptions which took place, occasioned the meeting to be protracted to an unusually late hour. Collections were made at the doors as the meeting broke up.

Here is an account of the success of our new Fever Hospital—a charity which has since been merged in the General Hospital :—

August 11, 1828.—We have pleasure in learning that the Fever Hospital is affording evidence of its usefulness, and acquiring that support which it well deserves. From the minutes of the last Monthly Board of the Governors and Committee, it appears that, in two months, *thirty* patients have received the benefit of the charity, twenty-five of whom were discharged cured, one died, and four were convalescent. So very small a proportion of mortality to the admission is fortunate for the rising character and success of the institution, though, from the severe nature of the cases admitted, and the advanced stages at which some of them are sent in, it is scarcely possible but that the general ratio of deaths should very much exceed this proportion. It was reported to the Board that the Earl of Bradford had intimated his intention of supporting the charity, and that the funds had received altogether an increase of fifteen guineas a year. It is much, however, to be wished that some general efforts were made to obtain additional donations and subscriptions.

The turnpike gates in Deritend were removed this year :—

August 25, 1828.—The Tolls payable at Deritend Bridge, and at the other Gates in Deritend leading into the town, will cease on the 27th instant, at twelve o'clock at night, and the turnpike gates and houses will be removed. It may not be uninteresting to our readers to give a short account of the origin of these tolls, and of the improvements which have been made by the trustees under the several Acts of Parliament that have been passed for erecting the bridge. At a meeting of the inhabitants, called by public advertisement, on the 17th of January, 1787, it was resolved that an application should be made to Parliament for an act to erect a Turnpike at Deritend Bridge, for the purpose of taking down and rebuilding the bridge, for widening the avenues thereto, and for preventing the lower part of the town from being overflowed. It will be in the recollection of many persons now living, that at this period, in times of flood, the lower part of Digbeth was impassable, and it became absolutely necessary to take down and rebuild the bridge, and to widen, deepen, and vary the bed and course of the river. From an account taken by a Gentleman residing in Deritend, of the number of carriages and horses passing over the bridge, it was calculated that a small toll of two-pence for each four-wheeled carriage, one penny for every two-wheeled carriage, and one half-penny for every horse, would be sufficient in the course of four years to enable the Trustees to take down and rebuild the bridge, and make every other necessary improvement. The amount of the tolls collected during the four years produced, however, but £500 per annum, which is little more than one half the estimated produce; the consequence was, that the Trustees, at the expiration of the act—the tolls having produced so much less, and the work having cost so much more than was expected—found themselves, notwithstanding the receipt of a rate in aid of the tolls, many thousand pounds in debt. In this dilemma, they applied to Parliament to renew the Act for a further term, and for an increase in the tolls ; but in consequence of a powerful opposition, the application was unsuccessful. Thus the matter rested, with a bridge not more than half completed, until 1813, when the trustees renewed their application for and obtained another act to complete the bridge, and make the other improvements required by the first act, and to pay the principal of the amount borrowed, the persons who had lent money on the credit

VIEW OF BIRMINGHAM FROM BRADFORD STREET.

Copied from a Print Published ... 18..

of the tolls having agreed to sacrifice all interest. This act continued in force until 1822, when another act was applied for and obtained, for the purpose of widening the lower part of Digbeth, between Rea-street and Mill-lane, and widening and repairing the two bridges in Bradford-street and Cheapside. For this purpose power was given to the trustees to continue the tolls until the 1st of January, 1830. The trustees, however, have been enabled to accomplish all the objects of this last act in a shorter period than was given by it, and as we have before stated, the toll will be discontinued on the 27th instant. The Trustees have diligently, faithfully, and disinterestedly accomplished the object of their trust, and the public should be informed, that whenever expenses were incurred at any of their meetings, such expenses were paid by the trustees out of their own pockets. Out of ninety-five members of the trust who were appointed by the first act in 1788, the following are all that are now living:—Rev. C. Curtis, Rev. Dr. Madan, Samuel Galton, Esq., Mr. Anderton, Mr. Timothy Smith, Mr. Cockle, Mr. John Parker, and Mr. Henry Parker.

Attempts were made to keep up the Birmingham Provident Institution, but they failed. A meeting of the members was held on August 24, at which it was unanimously agreed to dissolve the society.

The last public work of 1828 is again one of charity—the formation of a Female Penitentiary:—

November 24, 1828.—Our readers will observe that it has been resolved to establish a Female Penitentiary in this town, so soon as adequate funds shall be obtained. An institution of the kind had been for some time contemplated, and various preliminary meetings were held; difficulties and differences of opinion however arose, which it was endeavoured ineffectually to remove or reconcile, and the provisional committee were at length dissolved. A new committee has since been formed, and the projected establishment is patronised by the Bishop of the Diocese, the Archdeacon of Coventry, and by Lord Calthorpe. One of the points on which the former committee divided was the appointment of a female committee of visitors.

The object of such an institution as that here contemplated is, by affording a suitable Asylum and the means of Religious Instruction, to reclaim from a life of sin unhappy Females, professing themselves penitent, and to restore them to the paths of virtue and happiness.

The importance of such an object, if attainable, cannot fail of commending itself to every humane and benevolent mind.

That it is, through the divine blessing, attainable in a majority of instances, where the attempt is properly made, we seem warranted to infer from the experience of various institutions of this nature.

The year 1829 was made memorable by the determination of the Government of the Duke of Wellington to grant Catholic Emancipation. The bill for that object passed both Houses of Parliament, and on April 13 received the Royal Assent. As will be seen from

the following extract, public opinion in Birmingham was divided on the subject :—

March 2, 1829.—Petitions against and in favour of further concession to the Roman Catholics are in course of general signature in this town. Both petitions proceed from meetings convened by circular—the one held on Wednesday, and the other on Friday last. The former meeting took place at the Institution, in Temple Row, and the invitation was signed by Isaac Spooner and James Taylor, Esqrs.; the Rev. Edward Burn, and A. J. Clarke; Dr. Darnall, and Mr. W. C. Alston.

Soon after the hour appointed for assembling, Mr. Spooner was called to the chair, and fully explained the object of the proceedings. In moving the resolutions on which the petition is founded, the meeting was addressed at considerable length by James Taylor, Esq., and the Rev. Edward Burn; after which the petition was proposed, and being read from the chair, was, with the resolutions, adopted amidst three or four dissentient voices only. In passing the remaining resolutions considerable discussion took place, and much confusion at one period prevailed, in consequence of an attempt to address the meeting, by a gentleman opposed to the proceedings. Order having been at length restored, the business of the day was resumed. The petition is to be presented to the Lords by the Earl of Bradford, who, the Chairman stated, was decidedly opposed to concession; and to the Commons by the County Members. A vote of thanks was passed to those peers and commoners who have opposed the measure in Parliament; and a subscription was entered into to defray the expenses in carrying the resolutions into effect. A committee was also appointed to obtain signatures, and to forward the petitions for presentation when signed. A large proportion of those present attached their names as the meeting separated.

The meeting held for the purpose of petitioning the legislature in support of the measure recommended by government took place at the Public Office. The Chairman, Richard Spooner, Esq., after reading the invitation, stated that the meeting would not have been convened had not the opponents of concession previously determined upon addressing parliament on the subject. The resolutions, declaratory of the opinions of the meeting, were moved by Dr. John Johnstone, and supported by the Rev. J. A. James. The Rev. Rann Kennedy, in remarking upon some observations of the Rev. gentleman who preceded, contended that the sole object of the meeting was to support the ministers of the country, leaving to them and to parliament the adoption of such measures of concession as were consistent with our Protestant constitution, with the succession, and with the security of the Protestant establishment, he also took occasion to pass a high and warm eulogium on the Duke of Wellington and Mr. Peel, to whom he thought such an expression of confidence peculiarly due. The adoption of the petition was moved by Mr. Nicholls, and seconded by Thomas Lee, Esq. Both resolutions and petition were passed unanimously. Lord Calthorpe will present the petition to the House of Lords, and the Members of the County that to the Commons. A Committee was afterwards appointed to carry the resolutions into effect; and a considerable number of signatures were attached to the petition in the room. Both meetings were very respectably, though not so numerously attended as might have been expected. The two Committees have since been exceedingly active in prosecuting the duties assigned them. The petitions against concession, up to Saturday evening, we

understand, have received upwards of fifteen thousand seven hundred signatures. Of the progress made by the advocates of concession we have have not yet received any precise report.

A new Guardian Act was proposed this year. The objects of which are thus given:—

1. To enable the Guardians to let the parish lands on building leases. There are thirty acres on Birmingham Heath, and seven acres near the Asylum. The present rental is about £287; the improved rental is estimated at £1,600 per annum.

2. To render valid *five hundred* parish indentures of apprenticeship, which, by a recent decision, are rendered invalid—the seal of a Justice of the Peace being declared requisite as well as his signature.

3. To alter the mode of compounding for poor-rates upon small houses, by limiting it to houses of £12 rent and under. At present there are 15,821 houses compounded for by the landlord at half the rental, and a further deduction of one-third for voids, aud only 3,394 houses paid for by occupiers in full. The latter number is continually diminishing, whilst the former is increasing.

4. To empower the Overseers and Guardians to elect Assistant Overseers, and to remove the election out of a Church.

5. To alter the mode of electing Guardians, so far as to assimilate it to the mode of voting under the Parish Vestry Act. The qualification of a Guardian to be in future a rental of £15, and £500 property, either personal or otherwise.

6. To enable the Guardians to divide themselves into Committees.

7. To prevent alteration of Assessments in the Grand Levy Book, without notice to the parties and consent of a majority of overseers.

The following paragraph displays not only the energy of the people but the feverish anxiety of the times:—

April 6, 1829.—It is but justice to notice the heavy expense incurred, and the extraordinary exertions made to supply this town with early intelligence. For several weeks past, in consequence of the prolonged debates in Parliament, the publication of the Morning Papers has been delayed until after the departure of the early coaches, to overtake which expresses have been forwarded, On Saturday, however, the dispatch was unprecedented. Mansell and Co., of Union-street, received on that day the morning papers by express at 25 minutes past six in the evening, which were dispatched by the express time bill, from the office of their agent, Mrs. Hannah Barnes, in St. Martin's-le-Grand, at half-past nine the same morning.

The new Reformation Society held its first annual meeting on July the 3rd.

July 6, 1829.—The first anniversary meeting of the Birmingham Auxiliary Reformation Society, was held at the Royal Hotel, on Friday last. The Chair was taken by the Thomas Moseley, Rector of St. Martin's; and George Finch, and J. E. Gordon, Esqrs., attended as deputies from the Parent Society, related to the meeting several remarkable facts illustrative of the eagerness with which the Catholic population of Ireland crowd

to the meetings held in that country, whenever they have an opportunity of doing so, notwithstanding the very strenuous exertions of the priesthood to repress their attendance. The Rev. Messrs. Burn, Garbett, and Morgan, and M'Donald of the Scotch Church, also took part in the proceedings. A Collection was made at the doors as the Company retired.

We are now about to add a Botanical Society to our other useful institutions. The history of this admirable undertaking is given in the following extracts:—

BOTANICAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

July 20, 1829.—At a Meeting held at the Old Library, on Thursday, the 9th of July, for the purpose of taking the necessary steps towards the formation of a Botanical and Horticultural Society ;

Thomas Lee, Esq., in the Chair ;

the following Resolutions were passed unanimously :—

Proposed by James Taylor, Esq., and seconded by Dr. Darwell,—That it is desirable to form a Botanical and Horticultural Society in the neighbourhood of Birmingham.

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Peake, and Seconded by Mr. George Hadley,—That, for this purpose, Four Hundred Shares be raised, at £5 per share, and that each share be subjected to a subscription of one Guinea per annum.

Sept. 28, 1829.—The Earl of Dartmouth presided on Wednesday, at a meeting of the Shareholders and friends of the Botanical and Horticultural Society, lately established in this town. A code of laws, previously prepared by a committee, was read to the meeting, and with some alterations adopted. A committee of management was afterwards appointed, and full powers were given to it to select a site for the gardens, and to carry the objects of the society into effect. The noble Earl, at the request of the meeting, was also pleased to accept the office of President of the Institution. A very warm and general feeling prevails in favour of the undertaking, and there is now no doubt but that it will be attended with success.

The following records a useful undertaking :—

August 10, 1829.—The noble proprieter of the Edgbaston estate, and the owners of the Long Moors and Balsall Heath estate, have agreed immediately to form, at a cost of at least £1,000, a direct line of road, 36 feet wide, from the Worcester-road, opposite the end of the Wellington-road, leading across the Pershore-road and the river Rea, into the Alcester-road, near to Mr. Haden's residence. This new line of communication has been long wanted by the inhabitants of Edgbaston and Highgate, and will reduce the distance between the two points from two miles to about three quarters of a mile.

The following is the announcement of the opening of the recently suspended and ill-fated Birmingham Banking Company :—

BIRMINGHAM BANKING COMPANY.

Capital £500,000, in 10,000 Shares of £50 each.

Sept. 28, 1829.—The Directors take the earliest opportunity of informing the Shareholders and Public, that the Bank will open on the first day of October, at the

premises at present occupied by Messrs. Gibbins and Lovell, in New Street. Every information relative to the mode of doing business will be given by their Manager, Mr. Joseph Gibbins, at the Bank.

This was the year of one of our great Musical Festivals, which was rendered locally famous by the attack of a very good and generous, but, I cannot but think in this respect, a very narrow-minded man. On October 5, 1829, this paragraph was published :—

We regret to say that within the last day or two a circular, entitled, "Considerations on the Musical Festival," has been very freely transmitted through the Post-office, the object of which is to dissuade persons from attending the performances, on the ground that sanctioning them is altogether inconsistent with their profession as Christians. Its appearance on almost the very eve of the meeting, and at a moment when, whatever mischief it might have effected, it would have been too late to repair the evil, has justly excited general indignation. Whoever the writer may be, or whatever his motive, he may rest assured that he has laid himself open to the imputation of having wantonly and designedly attempted to injure the charity, at the same time that he has done serious mischief to the cause which he professes to advocate. There are in Birmingham many highly respectable individuals who, from conscientious scruples, decline taking part in the meeting; they, however, we feel satisfied, will be among the first to condemn an act as unjust as ill-timed, as in its consequences it might have been injurious to the institution for the support of which the Festival originated and has been so long carried on.

The writer of the circular had no wish to conceal his name. In the *Gazette* of October 19 he publicly avowed and defended his conduct. Few people were surprised when they learned that it was written by that gentle-hearted Friend and philanthropist, Joseph Sturge. The letter is worth preserving :—

October 19, 1829.—To the Editor of Aris's Gazette.—So much indignation has been excited by the circulation of the "Considerations on the Musical Festival," that, to prevent any odium attaching where it ought not, I think it right to state explicitly the circumstances under which that circulation took place.

Feeling strongly impressed with the serious evils connected with the Oratorio, believing that many excellent individuals continued to give it their support because they had never fairly examined the objections to it, and being convinced that the Hospital itself might be rendered independent of any such aid, I was desirous of bringing the subject before the view of the influential and reflecting part of the Christian Community of Birmingham in a manner which should arrest their attention.

My friend and neighbour, Thomas Swan, whose views on this subject, upon enquiry, I found were in accordance with my own, at my suggestion wrote and placed at my disposal the address which has excited so much displeasure. The precise time of its appearance was accidental, the manuscript having been put into my hands some time before, and my absence from home having alone prevented its publication at an earlier

period. If, therefore, it was ill-timed, I am alone responsible. I am also responsible for having attached the extracts to it.

It is well known that the religious Society to which I belong object, as a body, to these entertainments ; but I wished distinctly to state, that my fellow members are not implicated in this address, which was printed and circulated on my own judgment, and wholly at my expense. The document not being of a nature to require the signature of the writer, we thought it would give him unnecessary publicity to affix it ; but though the printer was requested not to name the quarter whence it came, merely to gratify curiosity, he was left at liberty to refer to me. Subscription lists to the Charitable Institutions of Birmingham were furnished for guidance in the distribution.

I regret the name of the printer did not appear, as I expected it would when I handed him the manuscript ; but it will be easily seen, from the feeling produced, that he might have reasons for not wishing to be at all identified with it. Both the writer and myself can sincerely say, in giving it circulation, we had no uncharitable feeling towards any individual ; nor do we consider ourselves less earnestly solicitous for the prosperity of the Hospital than its warmest supporters through the medium of the Festival. The nature and extent or the impression it has made were wholly unexpected by me. I confess I am not insensible to the censure of some whose esteem I value ; yet, as I was actuated by no motive but a sense of duty, so, on the most mature reflection, I cannot see that, on charitable grounds, I have any cause for self-condemnation.

Edgbaston, 10 month, 15th, 1829. JOSEPH STURGE.

This year St. Thomas's Church was consecrated :—

October 26, 1829.—On Thursday last, St. Thomas's Church, at Holloway Head, in this town, was Consecrated by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, assisted by his Registrar and the Archdeacon of Coventry and Stafford. A number of respectable inhabitants, including the several Church and Chapel-wardens, assembled between nine and ten o'clock at the church, whence they proceeded to St. Martin's Rectory, where the Bishop, the newly-appointed Minister of St. Thomas's (the Rev. W. Marsh), and the Clergy of the town and immediate neighbourhood, had been entertained at breakfast. Being joined by the clergy and two of the local commissioners, James Taylor and William Hamper, Esqrs., the procession returned to St. Thomas's Church, and the ceremony immediately commenced, according to the prescribed form. The service wes read by the Rev. Thomas Moseley, Rector of St. Martin's, and an appropriate discourse was delivered from the pulpit, by the Right Rev. Prelate. On the congregation retiring, collections were made at the doors to defray the expenses of the ceremony, and upwards of thirty pounds were contributed.

The Sacrament was afterwards administered to the clergy and others; and at the termination of this part of the service, the Bishop proceeded to consecrate the adjoining burial ground.

St. Thomas's Church was erected from the designs of Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinson, Architects, of this town ; and the entire expense, together with the cost of site, was defrayed by his Majesty's Commissioners appointed under the Act for building churches. The estimate for the church amounted to £14,795 12s. 5d., and the total expenditure of the erection was £14,222 13s. 10d., being £572 18s. 7d. less than the estimate. The accommodation provided is for 2,125, of which 625 sittings are in pews,

and the remaining 1,500 are free, and appropriated to the use of the poor. The edifice is in the Grecian style of architecture, and of the Ionic order; and the character of both exterior and interior is great simplicity, and in every respect consistent with the sacred purpose to which it is dedicated. At the west end is a stately Ionic colonnade, affording, with the open arches of the tower, complete shelter to each of the entrance doors; the tower rises from massive piers to the height of 130 feet long, and sixty feet wide; and from the mode of arrangement every person will, we have no doubt, be able to see and hear distinctly, notwithstanding the unusually large size of the church. The architects appear to have paid particular attention to the convenience of the entrances, which are designed on a novel plan, and seem well adapted both for the ingress and egress of the congregation. Among other improvements we are glad to observe that the free seats are all provided with kneeling and book boards. thus affording to the poor every convenience contained in the pews. From the elevated site of the church it becomes a particularly desirable situation for a Cemetery, and we are in great hope that the endeavours of the Church-wardens to obtain an additional acre of the land adjoining for burial ground will be successful.

The next extract also relates to matters ecclesiastical:—

November 23, 1829.—We understand that at a recent meeting, attended by the Clergy of the different Churches and Chapels of this town, it was agreed, by mutual arrangement, to divide that large portion of Birmingham, which will still remain to St. Martin's parish after the separation of the new parishes of St. George and St. Thomas, into small districts, each minister taking the charge of that portion which immediately surrounds his own church or chapel, with a view to remedy the deficiency of spiritual superintendence which the want of ecclesiastical division necessarily creates. The clergy being, almost without exception, either resident near their respective places of worship, or in a populous part of the parish, will experience little difficulty in carrying their object into execution; and their labours in this wide field may be greatly facilitated by subordinate lay assistance, upon the plan recently recommended by several of the Prelates, and successfully tried in certain extensive parishes, particularly that of St. Giles, London, by the late and present rectors, the Rev. Prebendary Benson and Mr. Tyler, under the especial sanction of the zealous Bishop of that diocese.

On February 11, 1830, a meeting of the Chamber of Manufactures and Commerce, and "other respectable inhabitants," was held to protest against the restrictions of the East India and China Trade.

In March we have this bit of good news for the button trade:—

March 1, 1830.—His Majesty has been pleased to accept a richly gilt and beautifully executed set of buttons, of Birmingham manufacture, from the deputation of journeymen button makers now in London. The Royal Dukes, and some of the principal Nobility, have also ordered the morning as well as their dress suits, to be decorated with gilt, instead of silk and covered buttons. The gilt button is become fashionable in the ball and drawing-room, and consequently will be generally adopted throughout the country.

The following report of a meeting is highly creditable to the humanity of the Birmingham people:—

Public Office, Birmingham, March 12, 1830.—At a meeting convened by circular, to take into consideration the expediency of petitioning Parliament on the subject of Capital Punishment as connected with the crime of Forgery,

William Chance, Esq., High Bailiff, in the Chair;

the following resolutions were unanimously passed :—

1. That this meeting deeply deplores the frequency of Capital Punishments awarded by the criminal code of this country, and observing that the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Home Department has given notice of his intention to bring into Parliament a bill for the Consolidation of the Laws relating to Forgery, deems it right to avail itself of the opportunity thus afforded of expressing to the Legislature the sentiments and wishes of a large and increasing portion of the community, on the momentous subject of the punishment of death as connected with that crime.

2. That the experience of a long series of years has demonstrated the insufficiency of the punishment of death, as a prevention of this offence, the frequency of which has alarmingly increased, notwithstanding the severity of the laws intended to restrain it.

3. That the more enlightened state of public opinion, which has for some time declared itself against the too indiscriminate infliction of so dreadful a penalty, has unavoidably lessened that degree of certainty from which every description of punishment derives its greatest efficacy.

4. That this uncertainty is still further increased by the entire abandonment of prosecution for Forgery on the part of great numbers of individuals, who conscientiously refuse to incur the awful responsibility of depriving a fellow creature of existence for an offence which affects the security of property only.

5. That, on these considerations, this meeting concludes to intreat the British Legislature to render the existing Statutes more accordant with the dictates of public and private opinion, and, by that means, more practically conducive to the prevention of a crime so essentially injurious to the interests of society.

6. That a petition to the House of Commons, founded on the preceding resolutions, be presented, under the direction of the Gentlemen who signed the circular convening the meeting, and transmitted to the members of the County for presentation.

7. That these resolutions be advertised in the Birmingham papers.

W. CHANCE, Chairman.

Resolved,—That the thanks of the meeting be given to the Chairman for his attention to the business of the day.

JAMES PEARSON.

The bill to amend the St. Martin's Burial Ground Act was withdrawn by the trustees. The committee appointed at the late vestry meeting met on Tuesday, and, after a long discussion, the following resolutions were carried :—

Resolved,—That, in the opinion of this Committee, there is a moral obligation upon the town of Birmingham to discharge the debt now existing on account of the Burial Ground Trust, provided it shall appear, upon investigation of the accounts and transactions of the trust, that no improper expenditure of the money has taken place ;

but that, in order to afford sufficient time to investigate the accounts, and to allow of any suggestions for improving the clauses, or engrafting them upon any other bill, it is expedient to withdraw the bill now introduced into Parliament.

That the Vestry Clerk do lay a copy of the above resolution before the Trustees, and communicate their determination thereon, in writing, to this Committee, at the Public Office, on Friday next, the 18th inst., at four o'clock, and that this Committee be specially summoned to meet at this time and place to receive the same.

These resolutions were laid before a meeting of the trustees and creditors on the Friday, and having been taken into consideration, it was determined, as will be seen by the subjoined resolution, to postpone the bill until next year.

Resolved unanimously,—That the Committee appointed by the late Vestry Meeting having recognised the obligations of the town to discharge the debt owing to the Creditors of this trust, the Trustees, confident that no expenditure has been made foreign to the objects of the Act of Parliament, do, with the concurrence of the Creditors convened at this meeting, consent to postpone the bill till the next Session of Parliament, and that Mr. Gem be authorised to deliver a copy of this resolution to the said committee. A Sub-Committee is stated to have been since appointed to examine and report upon the accounts.

On April 26, it was announced, "with regret,"

That the Town Hall Committee have found themselves compelled to abandon the contemplated site at the farther end of New Street, in consequence of the exorbitant prices demanded by the present occupiers of the premises. It would certainly have been a desirable situation on account of its elevation, the open space around it, the excellence of the approaches to it on all sides, and the handsome termination it would have formed to New Street. We trust, however, that another site will ere long be found, and we would suggest to those persons who may have suitable situations, the expediency of offering them to the Commissioners for the purpose.

George IV. died on June 26, and his successor, William IV., was proclaimed in Birmingham on Thursday, July the 1st. On Wednesday, August 4, the Duchess of Kent, and her daughter the Princess Victoria, now our beloved and noble-hearted Queen, visited Birmingham, and were loyally and heartily received :—

The Late Royal Visit.

August 9, 1830.—Their Royal Highnesses, attended by Lady C. Jenkinson, the Baroness Lehyen, Sir John Conroy, and suite, reached Dee's Royal Hotel about six o'clock on Wednesday evening, and were received by the gentlemen in attendance, who had been joined by Theodore Price, Esq., and by Mr. and Mrs. Dee. The apartments prepared for their Royal Highnesses were most elegantly and tastefully fitted up; preparations were making for brilliantly illuminating the front of the hotel; and every arrangement was effected to insure the convenience and comfort of the Royal party. An immense number of persons had assembled about the hotel, and the entrance hall was lined on both sides by respectable inhabitants, who waited to greet their Royal Highnesses on their entrance. Without they were hailed with loud acclamation, and

within by the most respectful and cordial welcome. The Duchess received these attentions in the most graceful and condescending manner, and the youthful Princess was regarded by all with the deepest feeling and interest. The deputation had an immediate interview with and were introduced to the Duchess, and their respectful congratulations and tender of services were freely and frankly acknowledged and accepted. The immediate attendance of a military guard of honour was made to the Duchess, which she, without hesitation, declined. The Duchess and the Princess showed themselves soon afterwards at a front window of the hotel, and were loudly cheered by the populace. Previously to dining, and after dinner, their Royal Highnesses again showed themselves, and were most enthusiastically greeted.

At last the site for the Town Hall was settled:—

Aug. 16, 1830.—At a numerous meeting of the Commissioners of the Street Act on Tuesday last, specially convened, it was unanimously determined that the intended Town Hall should be erected in Paradise-street. This very desirable site, so well calculated to give a good architectural finish to New-street, has, we understand, been contracted for and obtained by the Commissioners at a fair and reasonable price; and there is now every prospect that the work will proceed without further interruption. In addition to the land required for the building itself, the Commissioners, as a matter of convenience and to prevent the erection of any nuisance in the immediate neighbourhood, have purchased, on very advantageous terms, the reversion of the property at the back, extending to Edmund-street and fronting to Congreve-street.

Once more our button makers laboured under the delusive hope that Royal patronage could change the decrees of fashion, and appealed to the King and nobility to wear "plain metal buttons":—

Sept. 13, 1830.—The following is a copy of the Memorial presented to the King from the working Button makers of this town, to which we adverted in our last:—

"Sire,—We are in the deepest distress for want of employment, and we know of no mode of obtaining relief but by an appeal to your Majesty. We are full of hope from your gracious condescension, and from the repeated evidences of the sympathy of your Majesty with the people.

"In the month of February last, great and successful efforts were made by a deputation from Birmingham to induce the great personages of the state to wear plain metal buttons, and his late Majesty most graciously set the example to the country at large, which was followed by many illustrious nobles and commoners, and our trade greatly revived. The lamented illness and death of his late Majesty suddenly obscured our bright hopes, and the trade of plain buttons, which depends for its prosperity on the prevailing fashion of the polite world, was precipitated into its present deplorable condition.

"Sire,—Our only hope now is in the condescension of your Majesty, and we humbly appeal to our gracious and benevolent Prince that he will condescend to accept the humble token of our loyalty which accompanies the petition, and wear the same, with the kind purpose of inducing the *beau monde* to follow your Majesty's illustrious example.

"Sire,—By a compliance with this humble petition, your Majesty will give bread to thousands of your subjects, whose gratitude and loyalty can only be exceeded by the

virtues and benevolence of their gracious Sovereign; and your Majesty's petitioners, as in duty bound, &c."

On September the 23rd, the High Bailiff (Mr. W. Chance) entertained the Duke of Wellington, Sir Robert Peel, and other distinguished guests at the Theatre Royal. It is described as the "most magnificent affair of the kind that has ever taken place in this town, or in any part of the kingdom out of London." Over seven hundred sat down to dinner. We refrain from quoting the long report given of this noble repast; and content ourselves with the brief account of the Duke's visits during his short stay :—

The Noble Duke, accompanied by the Right Hon. Baronet, Lady Peel, Mrs. Arbuthnot, and Mr. Holmes, M.P., reached town about noon from the seat of Sir Robert at Drayton Park, and immediately proceeded to the Exhibition at the rooms of the Society of Arts, where they were received by the High Bailiff and other gentlemen. The arrival of the party soon became known, and the rooms were speedily crowded to their utmost extent; a considerable crowd also assembled round the entrance awaiting their coming out. So anxious were the persons who had gained admission to obtain a sight of his Grace, that it was with extreme difficulty he was allowed to move round the different rooms for the purpose of inspecting the pictures; the consequent inconvenience and pressure were, however, submitted to with the greatest good humour by all the party; and on leaving the large room, the Duke repeatedly bowed to the company, who replied by warm and animating cheers. On descending the staircase to an open carriage in waiting for them, the cheers were renewed and continued until the party were seated and driven off. Some marks of disapprobation arose from the crowd, but they were exceedingly few and faint. From the rooms of the Society of Arts, the party proceeded to inspect the new works of the Birmingham Canal Company; and attended by the Chairman, Thomas Lee, Esq., and other members of the Committee, they embarked on board the Company's barge and proceeded along the line as far as Smethwick, where they landed for the purpose of inspecting the Glass Works of Messrs. Chance and Hartley. Here the carriages met them from town, and they were driven to the Proof House, which they inspected, and afterwards to Mr. Thomason's manufactory, where they remained a considerable time, reaching the Royal Hotel on their return soon after five o'clock. The Duke, we understand, expressed himself highly gratified with the objects submitted to his notice, and with the attention paid to him. On retiring from the dinner table at night, the Duke and Sir Robert Peel immediately entered the carriage of the latter, which was in waiting, and drove off for Drayton Park.

At this time the Duke was very unpopular with the people because of his opposition to the Reform Bill, and their dislike was not concealed on the occasion of this visit. Whenever he appeared in public he was greeted with the most marked expressions of disapprobation, which he bore with all the indifference of an old soldier used to fire.

The following is the report of a religious discussion, which, it will be perceived, terminated as such discussions generally do:—

October 4, 1830.—On Wednesday a Meeting of the Birmingham Auxiliary Reformation Society was held in this town; The Rev. Edward Burn in the chair. The meeting was attended by a deputation from the parent institution, consisting of Captain Gordon, Lieutenant Rhend, and the Rev. N. Armstrong, by whom animated appeals were made in support of the object of the Society—that of exciting Protestants to oppose the proselyting efforts of the Roman Church, by shewing that the doctrines held by members of that church are unscriptural. A strenuous endeavour on the part of the Rev. T. M. M'Donnell and a Roman Catholic layman was made at the commencement of the proceedings to be heard in objection; but after much altercation and warm contention the Chairman decided against the interference, and the Rev. gentleman and his friend left the room, followed by a number of other persons, supposed to be of the same communion. The business of the meeting was then entered upon, and another temporary interruption from a different quarter having been overcome, the resolutions were severally proposed by the different speakers, and unanimously passed. A collection was made at the doors as the meeting separated. On the following morning, notice having been given that a public discussion would take place between the members of the deputation and any Roman Catholics who might step forward to defend the doctrines attacked, an elevated platform for the accommodation of the speakers was erected in the Methodists' Chapel, Cherry Street, which was crowded in every part soon after the hour appointed for the meeting to take place. The Rev. Edward Burn was again called to the chair, the deputation and a number of the clergy of the town and neighbourhood, the Rev. Mr. M'Donnell, a Mr. Falvey, and several other Roman Catholics taking their places on the platform. Before the regular proceedings commenced, a warm altercation ensued on some points of arrangement and order, and such a long continued scene of noisy and clamorous contention between the adherents of the two parties arose that it was with the utmost difficulty order was at all restored, and that at the late hour of half-past two the Chairman was enabled to call upon Captain Gordon to commence his argument against the doctrine of "Infallibility," held by members of the Church of Rome. Mr. Falvey replied and defended the doctrine. Captain Gordon afterwards rejoined, and his opponent was again heard in answer, each address occupying full three parts of an hour. The Rev. Mr. Armstrong next rose, but he had scarcely commenced when it was determined to adjourn until the following day. The discussion was accordingly resumed on Friday, and Mr. Armstrong and others in reply to him were heard. The same spirit of angry feeling was again displayed on the part of some of the speakers and of their respective adherents, and the most violent clamour and disorder frequently burst forth and interrupted the proceedings. The business was at length, however, brought to a close amidst much confusion, and the assembly dispersed, we believe, without coming to any decision or resolution on the subject.

The Botanical Society this year obtained a piece of land for their proposed gardens :—

October 25, 1830.—At a general meeting of shareholders of the Botanical and Horticultural Society, held at the Royal Hotel, on Tuesday last, it will be seen that the recommendation of the Committee for the formation of a garden at Holly Bank, in the

parish of Edgbaston, was unanimously approved. The site thus selected is admirably adapted for the purpose, and offers many peculiar advantages not elsewhere to be met with in this neighbourhood. The meeting was favoured with the presence of the Earl of Dartmouth and of Lord Calthorpe, and both these noble peers entered with much interest into the plan and objects of the society. Since the meeting a considerable number of additional shares have been taken; and no doubt now exists but that the required number will, in the course of a few days, be subscribed for. We should, therefore, recommend those who are desirous of holding shares to be early in their application, as after the proposed number, now fast completing, is filled up, all applications must, by the regulations of the society, be submitted to a ballot before additional shares are assigned.

Again the year closes with a work of charity. At a meeting held at the Public Office, on December 21, "it was resolved to establish in this town a General Benevolent Society, for the relief of cases of urgent or temporary distress for which no provision was made by any of the charitable institutions already formed. The meeting was numerously and most respectably attended by persons of all denominations, and the objects of the proposed society were advocated with a benevolent warmth of feeling highly commendable."

In January, 1831, the following catastrophe occurred:—

DESTRUCTION OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH BY FIRE.

January 31, 1831.— We regret that it becomes our duty to record the destruction of St. Peter's, one of the elegant and newly-erected churches built in this town by the Parliamentary Commissioners. The lamentable event, as our readers are aware, took place during the night of Monday last. The fire, from whatever cause it originated, broke out in the roof, and must have made very considerable progress before the alarm was given, for in less than an hour after the discovery took place and admission had been obtained, the whole of the roof had fallen into the area beneath, and the burning materials of which it was composed, alighting upon the galleries and pews in the body of the church, set fire to them and speedily involved in one common destruction the whole of the interior, including the organ, pulpit, and altar piece. On the fire reaching the west end of the church, it communicated itself to the wood work of the belfry and tower, and after burning for some time, the cross and bell were precipitated below, carrying with them in their fall a portion of the interior masonry, including the stone staircase leading to the galleries. So complete indeed is the demolition, that scarcely a vestige of the interior remains with the exception of the vestries, into which the fire did not penetrate, and a very small portion of the north-west gallery adjoining one of them. The exterior walls, the portico, and the tower are standing, and do not appear to be greatly injured or endangered.

The engines of the Birmingham and other offices were early on the spot, but it was soon evident that there was little probability of effecting anything towards arresting the progress of the flames; they continued playing, however, for a considerable length of time on the burning mass. In the mean while the efforts of those who were present were directed to the preservation of the moveable articles, and several loads of panelling, and

other materials were fortunately snatched from destruction. The police were also early in attendance, and they were essentially assisted in the preservation of order by a detachment of the Dragoons stationed at our barracks, which remained throughout the night. The church being insulated from the houses on either side, there was no apprehension of the fire extending; much alarm and confusion was consequently prevented.

With respect to the cause of the calamity many conflicting opinions prevail. On the one hand, it is believed by some, that the fire was communicated to the roof by means of a flue at the east end of the building used in warming the interior; while on the other, from some threatening communications lately addressed to the clergy, in which St. Peter's among several places of worship was stated to be marked for destruction by fire, fears are entertained by others that it was the work of an incendiary. An investigation on the subject is, however, in progress, and several minute examinations have taken place by a committee of builders and others appointed for that purpose. These examinations have been continued from day to day since the fire, and minutes have been made of their observations; but as they are not yet concluded, we feel ourselves bound, in justice to the parties interested in the decision, not to give publicity to any partial view of the case that may have reached us, but to wait the report, which will no doubt be made in the course of a few days. The Bishop of the Diocese was in town on Thursday, making inquiries on the subject, and we understand that the Parliamentary Commissioners have officially required a statement of the circumstances, as far as they can be ascertained, to be made to them. The Church cost upwards of thirteen thousand pounds in the erection, and it accommodated upwards of two thousand persons.

Endeavours are making by the Wardens to find a suitable place for the congregation to assemble during the rebuilding of the church, and we hear that the National School will most probably be used for the purpose. The Minister, the Rev. A. J. Clarke, it gives us pleasure to add, has, since the fire, been presented with a living in Somersetshire by the Lord Chancellor, who handsomely and spontaneously made the offer to the Rev. gentleman's father on coming to the knowledge of the occurrence by means of the public papers.

The attempt to levy a church-rate in St. Martin's parish was the cause of much excitement, and led to many most indecorous scenes in the "Old Church." The meetings assumed a political character, as will be seen by the persons elected this year to fill the various offices of the church. The language of the chronicler is that of a defeated partisan, and must be taken *cum grano salis*:—

April 11, 1831.—The scenes of clamour and angry contention which have of late disgraced the proceedings of the Vestry Meetings of this parish, appear at length to have driven the respectable portion of ratepayers from taking any part in them; and the consequence is that, at the meeting held on Tuesday and Wednesday last, the leaders of the multitude managed everything entirely their own way. On the first-named day they proposed and carried the election of Mr. W. Weston, one of their own body, as Parish Warden of St. Martin's, and his first official act was to nominate his friend and proposer, Russell, as a Sidesman for that church. On the latter day, a meeting was held for the appointment of twelve Trustees, under the new Burial Ground Act, and the same parties

succeeded in rejecting a number of highly respectable names, and filling up the list with others nominated by themselves. The persons declared elected, we believe, were:—Mr. Thomas Attwood, Mr. Joshua Scholefield, Mr. G. F. Muntz, Mr. J. Betts, Mr. Charles Jones, and Messrs. Knight, Russell, Salt, B. Hadley, B. Redfern, J. Portlock, and T. Hadley (Smallbrook Street.)

At one of these exciting meetings the Rev. Mr. Moseley, the Rector, was rather violently assaulted. A meeting was held the 6th of May, at which resolutions of sympathy were passed, and a declaration adopted, "expressive of the abhorrence in which conduct so unmanly and disgraceful is held. The meeting was attended by persons of all parties and opinions; and the great respectability of the signatures will sufficiently attest the general feeling of disgust which in consequence prevailed. The High Bailiff presided on the occasion, and the principal resolutions were moved and seconded by Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Bacchus, the Rev. John Corrie, Dr. Darwall, the Low Bailiff, Mr. Whateley, Thomas Lee, Esq., &c."

The design for the Town Hall was adopted this year:—

June 13, 1831.—At a meeting of the Commissioners of the Street Act, on Monday, the three designs presented by the Committee for the proposed Town Hall were submitted to the general body, by whom that sent in by Messrs. Hansom and Welch, of Liverpool, was selected for execution. The premiums for the two designs next approved were awarded to Mr. Fallows and Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinson, of this town.

On June 20 were published the following

POPULATION RETURNS.

Subjoined will be found copies of the official returns of the parishes of Birmingham and Aston. From these documents the population of this town, including the parish of Edgbaston, may fairly be estimated as under:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Increase.
Parish of Birmingham . . .	54,319	56,028	110,347	24,931
Hamlet of Duddeston . . .	6,113	6,585	12,698	5,783
" Bordesley . . .	3,654	3,940	7,594	3,818
" Deritend . . .	3,402	3,689	7,091	2,075
Parish of Edgbaston . . .	1,653	2,301	3,954	1,837
	69,141	72,543	141,684	38,444

Making a total of 141,684 persons, and an increase since the census in 1821, of 38,444.

There was great distress in Ireland this year, and the inhabitants of Birmingham displayed their ordinary benevolence on the occasion. A subscription was raised for the relief of the sufferers, and on June 27 we read:—

We have the pleasure to state that the sum of £560 was last week remitted to the London Committee, for the relief of the distressed Irish, making, with the amounts previously transmitted from this town, a total of £1,000. Additional contributions are reported in this page, including several congregational collections made yesterday.

Doctor de Lys, the originator of the Deaf and Dumb Institution, died this year, and the following just tribute to his memory appeared in the *Gazette*:—

August 29, 1831.—On Wednesday, the 24th inst., at the house of William Phipson, Esq., Edgbaston, in his 48th year, after a lingering illness, Gabriel J. M. De Lys, M.D., one of the Physicians to the General Hospital in this town.

Dr. De Lys was the representative of the noble family of his name, in Brittany, but left France when a child, with his father, during the early troubles of the Revolution, and from that time he resided in this country. He was educated for the military profession, in the School established by the British Government, at the instance of the late Mr. Burke, for the sons of the French Emigrant Nobility, at Penn, in Buckinghamshire. Subsequent changes in the political prospects of his country induced him to relinquish this pursuit, and he commenced the study of medicine. Having passed with distinguished approbation through the regular courses of professional education, he graduated in 1808, and in the following year he settled in this town. Here his scientific acquirements and practical skill, his indefatigable, faithful, and tender discharge of the duties of his profession, his punctilious attention to the claims of its older, and his active zeal for the advancement of its younger members, raised him to the highest eminence in the esteem of his medical brethren and of the public at large.

Those who enjoyed the happiness of his intimacy, lament the loss of a friend whose unbending and scrupulous integrity, the importance of whose counsels, the energetic zeal of whose good offices, the warmth of whose affections, the simplicity of whose manners, and the interests of whose conversation, they will ever hold in affectionate remembrance. His able lectures at the Birmingham Philosophical Institution, are fresh in the recollection of many of our readers; and the School for the Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Children at Edgbaston, founded in consequence of the interests which some of these lectures excited, remains a monument of his benevolence, and of the success with which he could apply his acute and vigorous understanding to a subject not falling within the scope of professional attention. He was successively appointed Physician to the Dispensary, General Hospital, and Eye Infirmary, in this town, and his assiduous attention to the laborious duties of his profession, and the anxious interest he felt in his patients, acting on a naturally delicate constitution, it is too probable considerably hastened his premature and lamented death.

Temperance Societies were now being founded, and a great social reform was being introduced, the issues of which have proved, and will continue to prove, of the utmost advantage to the world. The first anniversary of the Birmingham Society was held this year, and the following brief notice is all that the contemporary chronicle contains of the meeting:—

Sept. 5, 1831.—Temperance Society.—The first Anniversary of this Society was held at the Public Office, on Tuesday last. William Chance, Esq., who was called to the chair, opened the proceedings, and explained the steps that had been previously taken. The Report was read by the Rev. S. Byers, and the adoption of it was moved by the Rev. Thomas Moseley, and seconded by the Rev. B. Slater. The Rev. Dr. Hewitt, from the United States, who had taken a distinguished part in the origin of these Societies in America, then entered into some very interesting statements, by which it would appear that already the beneficial effect of Temperance Societies has extensively appeared in America, where distilled spirits were drank to a very alarming degree, but where a considerable diminution of consumption has taken place since attention has been thus called to the subject. The Rev. Dr. strongly urged the formation of similar societies in England, and produced some very impressive reasons which will no doubt be embodied in the future addresses of the society. The Rev. Mr. James, Mr. Cadbury, and Mr. Chapman, of Ashted, addressed the meeting, which terminated with a vote of thanks to Dr. Hewitt.

Our next extract shows the progress which had been made in the

Birmingham Botanical and Horticultural Society.

Patrons.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex.

The Right Hon. the Earl Howe,	Sir Edward Dolman Scott, Bart., M.A,
The Right Hon. Earl Ferrers,	D. S. Dugdale, Esq.
The Right Hon. Earl Mountnorris,	William Withering, Esq., L.L.D.
The Right Hon. Lord Lyttelton,	John Gough, Esq.
The Right Hon. Lord Calthorpe.	

President—The Right Hon. the Earl of Dartmouth.

Six months having elapsed since the formation of the Botanical Garden commenced, the Committee deem it right to give some account of their proceedings to the Proprietors and the Public.

Having taken twelve acres of Land from Lord Calthorpe, peculiarly well situated for the purposes of the Society, and having engaged Mr. Cameron as Curator, of whose competency they had the highest testimonials (the correctness of which their own experience now enables them to confirm), the Committee applied to Mr. Loudon, of Bayswater, to assist them in laying out the ground to the best advantage. In consequence of this application that gentleman came down to Birmingham, and after maturely considering all the circumstances, he gave it as his decided opinion that the Society ought to obtain possession of the house then occupied by Mr. Aspley, and the remaining four acres of land attached to it. On weighing the reasons assigned by Mr. Loudon for this recommendation, the Committee were convinced of the wisdom of the opinion; and after some time spent in negociating with Mr. Aspley, his interest, extending over the ensuing seventeen years, in the premises and four acres of land he occupied, was purchased by the Society.

The fearful and fatal Cholera Morbus was now raging in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, and the most careful precautions were taken to prevent its appearance, or to mitigate its fury, should it

unfortunately visit the town. A General Board of Health was at once formed; but towards the end of the year this was superseded by the Lords of the Privy Council, who appointed a Board for Birmingham and Aston. The new Board held their first meeting on Saturday, December the 10th. The notification of this appeared on the 12th:—

BOARD OF HEALTH FOR BIRMINGHAM AND ASTON.

Notice is hereby given, that the following Gentlemen have been appointed by the Lords of the Council a Board of Health for Birmingham and Aston, viz.,

Chairman, Samuel Tertius Galton, Esq.,

Deputy Chairman, The Rev. George Hodson, Archdeacon of Stafford,

The High Bailiff,	Mr. William Beale,
The Low Bailiff,	Mr. R. T. Cadbury,
George Nicholls, Esq.	Mr. James Pearson,

Mr. Thomas Knott;

Of whom three are to form a Quorum.

All persons are desired to take notice of this, in pursuance of the Orders in Council of the 21st of November last.

The Board will meet for the present on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at one o'clock, at the rooms of the Philosophical Society, in Cannon Street.

All communications to the Board are requested to be addressed to the Chairman as above.

SAMUEL TERTIUS GALTON, Chairman.

Happily Birmingham escaped almost, if not entirely, from the effects of this terrible scourge. A few cases of death from true Asiatic Cholera were recorded. These, however, were so few, and the circumstances attending each case were so peculiar, that it may be safely asserted that this town has always enjoyed an immunity from the visitations of this fatal plague. May it ever continue to do so!

§ 3. EDUCATION AND LITERATURE.

This decade is honourably distinguished by the great advances made in education. Infant Schools, and the Mechanics' Institute were founded; and the recently established Society of Arts waxed strong and grew. The first paragraph we meet with is a notice of the doings of this Society:—

May 27th, 1822.—Society of Arts.—The Museum in New Street is now fitted up, and furnished with the valuable Collection of Casts from the Antique, presented to the Society by Sir Robert Lawley, Bart.; and we understand the appartment will be opened on the 4th

of next month, for the admission of members and students. The Committee, we also learn, have availed themselves of a favourable opportunity of providing a considerable addition to the present collection, through the assistance of a Gentleman who is visiting Italy, and who has politely offered his services in selecting such specimens of the works of art, as will best promote the objects of the Society. The Committee, at their next meeting, will pass some bye-laws, in conformity with the rules of the Society, for the admission of strangers.

The next extract is the first advertisement of a publication which obtained, and deserved, considerable reputation in its own day, and which has been republished in ours. The original drawings have been purchased for, and are now the property of the Midland Institute. It is with pleasure I record that this purchase was the result of a subscription commenced and carried out by Mr. John Jaffray and the writer of this record, who thus procured the acquisition of a permanent Art Treasure for the town :—

August 19, 1822.—Under the Patronage of the Right Honourable the Earl of Warwick. In the course of the Autumn will be published, Part I. Graphic Illustrations of Warwickshire ; consisting of a Series of Engravings of the most celebrated Architectural Remains, and the most interesting Natural Scenery of the Country, accompanied by Historical and Descriptive Notices.

The Work will be complete in eight parts, each containing Four Plates, with subordinate subjects engraved as Vignettes. Royal quarto, price to subscribers, twelve shillings and sixpence each part.

A limited number of Proof Impressions on India paper, imperial quarto, price one guinea each part.

A select number of Proof Impressions on India paper, crown folio, (for illustrating Dugdale) price two guineas each part.

The Engravings will be executed by W. Radclyffe, from original Drawings made expressly for this work by Mr. Westall, A.R.A., V. Dewint, J. V. Barber, and F. Mackenzie.

As a not unimportant educational institution we quote this report of the News Room :—

New Street, September 10, 1822.—At a large and highly respectable Meeting of the Subscribers it was proposed and resolved,—

1. That the following Daily Papers be laid on the tables of this room. viz., Morning Chronicle, Courier, Sun, Traveller, True Briton, and the Statesman.

2. That the following Weekly Papers be taken in, viz., Observer, Philanthropic Gazette, Farmer's Journal, Examiner, Bell's Messenger, Birmingham Gazette, Birmingham Chronicle, Gore's Liverpool Advertiser, with Loyd's List, the Price Current, and the Army List.

3. That a box be placed in the room with a list of all the London Newspapers, and remain in the room for one month. That each subscriber shall be invited to write the

names of six papers, and deposit the same with his signature in the said box, and those papers which have the majority of votes shall be taken in for the ensuing year. Notices of the Annual Meeting shall be given in Aris's Birmingham Gazette, at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

4. Should the number of Subscribers amount to one hundred and ten, an additional daily paper shall be taken in, and so in proportion to a further increase of Subscribers. When it is thus needful to introduce another paper a notice will be placed in the room, and the paper to be taken in shall be decided by a majority of Subscribers.

Annual Subscription, £1 5s.

In presenting to the Public the foregoing Resolutions, I beg leave to solicit the Subscriptions of my Friends in support of the News Room, and shall be obliged by an early intimation from those who favour me with their patronage.

Respectfully,

J. Lovell.

In 1823 a Commercial and News Room was established; the following is the report of the meeting:—

November 24, 1823.—At a numerous Meeting of Gentlemen assembled at the Public Office, to take into consideration the propriety of establishing a Public News Room in the town, John Vale, Esq., High Bailiff, in the Chair;

It was resolved unanimously—

That it appears to this Meeting that a Public Room, to be called a "News and Commercial Room," would be extremely desirable in the town of Birmingham.

That it is the opinion of this meeting, that a building for this purpose should be erected, by shares not exceeding £20 each, bearing an interest of 5 per cent. per annum.

It being reported to this Meeting that more than 100 shares are already subscribed,

Resolved—That a call of £5 on each share be immediately made, to be paid to the Treasurers.

That Messrs. Gibbon, Smith, and Goode be appointed Treasurers.

That a Committee be now appointed to ascertain the proper dimensions of such room—to consider of situations, plans, and estimates, and to collect such information as they shall deem necessary to be laid before a Meeting of the Proprietors, to be convened as early in the ensuing year as possible.

That the following ten Gentlemen, who originally met to take this subject into consideration, be now appointed such Committee, with power to add to their number:—

Mr. Thomas Bolton	Mr. G. T. Simcox
Mr. Charles Cope	Mr. Edward Thomason
Mr. J. F. Ledsam	Mr. H. Van Wart
Mr. E. T. Moore	Mr. John Walker
Mr. Charles Shaw	Mr. Joseph Walker

That Mr. E. S. Moore be requested to accept the office of Honorary Secretary to the Proprietary.

That the proceedings of this day be published in the Birmingham newspapers.

John Vale.

A periodical called the "Birmingham Spectator" was started in 1824; but, like so many preceding and succeeding attempts of the kind, it did not long survive. It gave considerable attention to theatrical questions, and was published by Mr. J. Drake, of New Street. A paper war, which excited a great deal of attention, was carried on this year. It was commenced in January by the publication of "Youth Warned," by the Rev. J. A. James, and intensified when the play of the "Hypocrite" was produced at the Theatre Royal, and Mr. James wrote his "Scoffer Admonished," protesting in very warm terms against the irreligious tendency of the performance. This pamphlet was replied to by the Manager, Mr. Alfred Bunn, in a letter which speedily run through four editions. The "Spectator" was thus announced :—

REDIVIVUS LITERARIUS.

May 17, 1824.—On Saturday, May 29, will be renovated the Spirit of "The Theatrical Looker On."* No longer exclusively devoted to the Stage, it will take the more comprehensive appellation of

"THE BIRMINGHAM SPECTATOR."

Still, however, lingering about its former haunts, it will, during the Theatrical Season, give a large portion of its attention to the acted Drama, while its other contents will embrace a wide range of subjects connected with Literature, Criticism, the Arts, Localities, &c., omitting nothing which should be noted by an observant Spectator, whose business it is to "see, hear, and say"—a good deal.

"The Birmingham Spectators" will appear in weekly numbers, each number containing sixteen pages, small 8vo, price Three Pence. Published every Saturday Afternoon, at four o'clock, by J. Drake, 123, New-street, Birmingham, and delivered to Subscribers in all parts of the town.

A Box will be opened for the reception of Communications.

The first number contained "the Editor's Address Preliminary—an account of the last moments of the Looker On, and his dying Bequests to the Spectator and the Critic of the Chronicle—Notices to Correspondents—a full and candid examinatian of the Theatrical Performances of the week—the other interesting matter to *fill up*."

Contemporaneous with the Spectator was published the Theatrical John Bull, which was announced in the following advertisement :—

"*The Play, the Play's the Thing.*"

On Saturday next, May 29, will be published, by W. Cooper, at the Original London Newspaper Office, Union-street, Birmingham, No. 1 of a new Work, to be continued weekly, Price Two Pence, to be called

* Twenty-five numbers of this periodical appeared, from May 27, 1822, to November 2, 1823. The Birmingham Reporter appeared in June and July, 1823; and the Theatrical Note Book in June, 1824.

THE THEATRICAL JOHN BULL.

The leading feature of the Publication will be independent and original Criticisms on the Performances at the Birmingham Theatre; but the Editors will occasionally introduce select Anecdotes and short Memoirs of eminent Actors, with other matter that they may deem useful and interesting to the Public.

No. 3 will contain some Observations on "Youth Warned." A box for communications is prepared at the Publisher's.

☞ A good Punster wanted, as the Looker-on is dead.

Another periodical of a kindred character was also published in September:—

THE MOUSE TRAP!!!

"The Mouse Trap! Marry, how? Tropically?"—*Hamlet.*

The First Number of a Work with the above title will be published, at twelve o'clock price Two Pence, by T. Dewson, Lower Temple-street, and may be had of most Booksellers.

"Whomsoever readeth not this, doth lack of taste."—MICKLE.

On September 27, this curious notice appeared:—

To the Readers of the Mouse Trap!!—That is, All England!!!

The Tripartite who conduct this "clever work" are gone to Bath for a few weeks, just for a Lark—when they return they will resume their holy work again. In the mean time, all they have to say to the Birmingham Literati is—Look to it, and as you value your future peace, avoid Personalities.

The local poets entered the field; and in the same month was published "Cant, a Satirical Poem." This was followed by "Anti-Cant; an Extra Satirical Burlesque. With Notes that may be useful." By Hudibras the Younger. This pamphlet had for motto: "Of all the cants which are canted in this canting world, though the cant of hypocrisy may be the worst, the cant of criticism is the most tormenting."

On October 25 this advertisement was published:—

On Wednesday next, precisely at Twelve o'clock, "The Plagiary Warned;"* a Vindication of the Drama, the Stage, and Public Morals, from the Plagiarisms and Compilation of the Rev. John Angell James, Minister of Carr's-lane Chapel, Birmingham. Published by J. Drake, New-street; and Baldwin, Cradock, and Joy, Paternoster-row, London.

The following testimony to the work of an artist still living, and whose name is honoured wherever genius is admired, will be read with interest:—

To the Editor of Aris's Birmingham Gazette.

Dec. 20, 1824.—Sir,—As I had the pleasure of being intimately acquainted with the late Mr. Edward Grainger, I have examined with great care the marble bust which Mr.

* This is attributed to Mr. Joseph Parkes.

Peter Hollins has executed of my lamented friend, and which is a most accurate resemblance of him. From its being impossible for the sculptor, like the painter, to exhibit the colour of the face, and to shew that great organ of expression, the eye, we too frequently find busts mere inanimate copies of the features; but in this the artist has, with admirable skill, contrived to express the greatest intellectual powers of the deceased. The artist certainly had a fine subject to work upon, as the head is of the first order, the forehead ample, and the other features of marked expression; and well has he availed himself of this advantage. When I learn that this is the first production of so young a man as Mr. P. H. is, I cannot express my surprise at its masterly execution, as, from the natural fleshy appearance which he has contrived to produce, and the great animation he has infused into the features, it certainly would not disgrace the chisel of the most experienced artist.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

St. Paul's-square, Dec. 18, 1824. FRANCIS R. ELKINGTON.

The two noblest educational labours of this decade were commenced in 1825. That year is distinguished in our history by the formation of a Mechanics' Institute and the founding of Infant Schools. Of the former the following is the first announcement:—

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION, BIRMINGHAM.

June 6, 1825.—A number of Persons, Mechanics, Artizans, and others, being desirous that a *Mechanics' Institution* should be formed in Birmingham, on a plan resembling those which have been established in other places, do hereby invite such of their Townsmen as wish to share in the advantages offered by such an institution, to enter their names as engaging to become subscribers, at the rate of *five shillings per quarter*. This is thought desirable previously to the announcement of any public meeting, which will be called as soon as a sufficient number of names are received.

While, however, the advertisers take this means of ascertaining the sentiments of their own body, they venture publicly to express a hope that some of the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood, distinguished for their wealth, respectability, liberality, and the wish to promote and to extend scientific, intellectual and moral improvement, will come forward to give the valuable aid of their judgment and experience in the formation and arrangement of the desired establishment, which the present proposers feel assured will then be more eligibly effected than if left to their unassisted efforts.

The names of subscribers will be received by Messrs. J. Drake, 123, New-street; W. Cooper, Union-street; W. Suffield, Bull-street; and at the Artizans' Library, Edmund-street.

JAMES REILY, Provisional Secretary.

It was not, however, until March, 1826, that the Institution was opened.

On June 27 this paragraph was published:—

We understand that a plan is in contemplation among some benevolent individuals of this town for the establishment of an Infant School, upon the model of that so successfully pursued in the metropolis.

On July 18, we read that a meeting had been held, and that it was resolved to establish Infant Schools in this town:—

Such of our readers as are interested in the establishment of Infant Schools will be gratified to learn that a meeting convened at the Public Office upon the subject, on Friday last, was most respectably attended, and resolutions were entered into that measures should be immediately taken to set on foot an institution of this description in Birmingham.

The following extract from the report of the first public meeting explains the purpose of the originators of this important work :—

Sept. 26, 1825.—At the Public Meeting for taking into consideration the propriety of establishing an Infant School in Birmingham, held at the Royal Hotel, on Tuesday the 20th Instant.

The Right Hon. Lord Calthorpe in the Chair ;

The business of the day having been opened by the noble chairman, the report of the Provisional Committee was read :—

Public Office, Sept. 19, 1825.—The system of early moral education, adopted in the Spitalfields' Infant School and elsewhere, having for some time engaged the attention and awakened the interest of many individuals in Birmingham, they were naturally led to desire that the important benefits which have been ascertained to result from it in those excellent establishments, should be extended to the Infant Poor of their own neighbourhood.

With a view to promote this object, a number of Gentlemen met at the Public Office, on the 15th of July last, and unanimously adopted the following resolution :—

"That it appears to this meeting highly expedient that an Infant School be established in the town of Birmingham."

. . . . . .

The estimated cost of the whole building, including the two Schoolrooms, with the master's house, play ground, &c., according to plans which have been prepared, is upwards of £1,000 ; but it is calculated, that if about £500 could be raised by donations, the rent derived from the above-mentioned sources would be sufficient to pay the interest of the sum which it would be necessary to borrow for completing it ; and the ground rent of £25 per annum would then be the annual charge, as far as relates to the building, remaining upon the Institution.

The following resolution was also passed :—

That the Right Hon. Lord Calthorpe be requested to accept the office of Patron of the Institution ; Messrs. Taylor and Lloyds that of Treasurers ; the Rev. Thomas Nunns and Mr. John Sturge that of Secretaries ; and that the following Gentlemen, with the Officers of the Institution, do form a Committee for the ensuing year, with power to add to their number, to draw up rules, promote subscriptions, and adopt such other measures as they may find expedient for carrying into effect the resolutions of this meeting :

E. Johnson, Esq., M.D.	R. W. Gem
S. Tertius Galton, Esq.	Rice Harris
Thomas Lee, Esq.	P. M. James
Richard Spooner, Esq.	J. F. Ledsam

Rev. Edward Burn	Samuel Lloyd
Rev. Rann Kennedy	James Pearson
Rev. John Garbett	Josiah Pumphery
Rev. George Hodson	T. G. Simcox
Rev. J. A. James	Timothy Smith
Richard Cadbury	Joseph Sturge.

The next extracts narrate the formation and opening of that most useful society—the Mechanics' Institute :—

February 6, 1826.—At a numerous meeting of the Birmingham Mechanics' Institution, held on Friday week in the School-room belonging to Carr's-lane meeting house, for the purpose of electing its Officers, Richard Spooner, Esq., was appointed President; Mr. B. Cook, Vice-President; Thomas Attwood, Esq., Treasurer; Mr. Joseph Parkes and Mr. Francis Clark, Secretaries; and twenty individuals were chosen of the Committee, two-thirds of whom, by the regulations of the Society, are mechanics. The resolutions were moved and seconded by Thomas Attwood, Esq., Mr. G. E. Jackson, Mr. Parkes, the Rev. T. M. M'Donnell, Mr. Scholefield, Mr. Hill, senr., Mr. Wrightson, Francis Canning, Esq., (of Foxcote), Mr. Knight, Mr. W. Phipson, and Mr. Corn. The meeting was also addressed by Mr. Edmonds. During the proceedings Mr. Spooner officiated as Chairman. The names of nearly two hundred mechanics are stated to have been received as subscribers before the meeting broke up.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.

March 20, 1826.—The Birmingham Mechanics' Institution will be opened To-morrow (Tuesday) evening, March 21, at half-past seven o'clock, by an Introductory Lecture from Mr. B. Cook, the Vice-President, at Mount Zion Chapel, Newhall-hill, which has been kindly lent for this occasion. The Committee respectfully announce, that at this Lecture the Chapel will be open to all the Subscribers and Friends of the Institution, and to any of the Inhabitants of the Town who, on that occasion, may favour them with their attendance.

Persons wishing to become Members of the Institution may obtain Tickets of Admission on application at the Chronicle Office, 134, New-street; Mr. Drake's, 123, New-street; Mr. James Reily's, Old Meeting-street; or Mr. Francis Clark, 53, Lionel-street.

March 27, 1826.—On Tuesday evening the Mechanics' Institution in this town was formally opened by the delivery of an address from the Vice-President, Mr. Benjamin Cooke, from the pulpit of Zion Chapel. The place was filled by Mechanics and others soon after seven, and the address appeared to give very general satisfaction.

The following extract from the first Annual Report of the Birmingham Infant School, gives a brief record of the progress of that institution :—

October 23, 1826.—The Committee first made enquiry in various quarters for suitable persons to occupy the station of Master and Mistress, and at length fixed their choice upon Mr. and Mrs. John Hayes, of this place, whom they sent to Walthamstow to learn the system of infant instruction in the school of the Rev. Wm. Wilson, who has kindly given permission for that purpose. They also directed them to visit, before their return, the Spitalfields and other schools in London, in order the more completely to qualify themselves for the situation they intended to fill. The School was accordingly opened in

the room above alluded to, on the 15th of March last, and for the last four or five months it has had an average attendance of from 80 to 100 children. At the time of its removal to the situation it now occupies in this building, the whole number upon the books was 128.

The present school-room being at length completed, the children were removed to it on the 26th of last month, and during the fortnight which has since elapsed, 38 fresh children have been admitted, making the whole number at present upon the books 166, being still above 50 less than the room will accommodate: but, as the applications for admission to the former room were more numerous than the means of accommodation rendered it then practicable to comply with, there can be little doubt that the present will be quickly filled, more especially as your Committee are constantly receiving proofs that the working classes become every day more sensible of the great benefits their offspring will derive from the Institution. The progress which these children have made in the several branches of instruction suitable to their infantine capacities, the willing attention and cheerful obedience which they exhibit, and the order and harmony of the School in general, have been highly gratifying to your Committee, and will, they believe, be considered by all who visit the School to furnish decisive evidence that your establishment is really effecting the benevolent purposes for which it was instituted.

The Blue Coat School received a welcome addition to its funds :—

February 5, 1827.—The Treasurers of the Blue Coat School acknowledge the receipt to £1,000 legacy, deducting duty, bequeathed to that charity by the late Miss Sheldon.

In addition to the bequest of this lady already made known, the sum of £1,000 has been invested in the public funds in the names of the rector and churchwardens, for the time being, of St. Philip's Church, the interest of which is to be annually given, in equal proportions, to ten old maidens, or single women of virtuous character, parishioners of Birmingham. Also the sum of £650, invested in like securities, in the name of the minister and churchwardens, for the time being, of Sheldon, the interest to be applied to the purchase of blue coats, cloaks, and other warm clothing, and given to the aged poor of the parish of Sheldon, annually, on St. Thomas's day.

The Executors of the deceased have likewise paid a legacy of £1,000 to the Society for Promotion of Christian Knowledge.

The following is an important literary announcement :—

March 26, 1827.—This day is published in one volume, royal 4to., with Portraits and Autographs, price £2 2s., in boards,

The Life, Diary, and Correspondence of Sir William Dugdale, Knight, sometime Garter Principal King of Arms. Edited by Wm. Hamper, Esq., F.S.A.

The Life and Diary of Sir William Dugdale form, perhaps, the most important illustrations of the momentous period in which he lived. The former is printed from the Author's own autograph, preserved in the Ashmolean Museum, and the latter from his Manuscript Diary, which extends through the period of the great Rebellion to the year 1686, and is preserved among the archives of his descendant, D. S. Dugdale, Esq., at Merevale, Co. Warwick. It commences in 1643, when the Author's official attendance upon the Court of Charles I., at Oxford, afforded him opportunities for observation which he noted from day to day, and depicts the principal events during the siege of that city

until its surrender to the rebels in 1646, with a precision attainable only by an eye witness of the events which he records. In the Correspondence will be found Original Letters of the most celebrated persons of the age, not hitherto published.

"What Dugdale has done is prodigious. His memory ought to be venerated, and had in everlasting remembrance."—*Wood, Fasti, Oxonienses.*

London: Printed for Harding, Lepard, and Co., Pall Mall East.

The publication of this book was honoured with an editorial note, which is quite an exceptional thing in the *Gazette* of those days :—

March 26, 1827.—The publication of the forthcoming Life of Sir William Dugdale, under the superintendence of our respected townsman, William Hamper, Esq., is looked for with interest. The Life and Diary is at once a valuable specimen of autobiography, and eminently characteristic of the distinguished historian of our county; and the Correspondence will be found to throw much important light upon the eventful period of English History in which Sir William lived. The well-known antiquarian research and discrimination of the Editor fully qualified him to do justice to the task he had undertaken, and we sincerely congratulate him on the successful result of his labours. Through his kindness, we have been favoured with a sight of the volume, and we understand it will be in the hands of the subscribers in the course of a very few days.

A new serial was published this year, under the title of Paul Pry. It was to have appeared weekly—every Thursday, and its price was twopence. The first number was announced as "containing the best critique on the Theatre Royal, local information respecting the news of the town, public meetings and passing events." It had only a brief existence. On July 30, a local monthly was advertised :—

On Saturday next, August 4, will be published, by J. Russell, 21, Moor Street, price threepence, (to be continued on the first Saturday in each succeeding month,) No. 1 of "The Birmingham Independent," containing a View of the Benefits likely to result from, and suggestions how to avoid inconveniences in, the contemplated representation of Birmingham; how to reduce the Church Rate; Observations on the Necessity of a Market Hall—the best and cheapest situation for the same; Thoughts on the more beneficial Disbursement of the Funds of King Edward's Grammar School; Impropriety of Clerks attempting to collect Easter Offerings by compulsion; Notices to Correspondents, &c., &c.

The next extract is a report of the first exhibition of the Society of Arts :—

Birmingham Society of Arts—First Exhibition.

September 17, 1827.—We have been highly gratified with the Pictures and other Works of Art in this Collection, which, whether as it respects the number of artists and their productions, or the high degree of merit which they display, is calculated to increase the reputation of Birmingham for improved taste in design and execution, and to bring the artists themselves under that public notice and fostering patronage which is the proper reward of their superior talents. It must be highly gratifying to the Committee of

Managers to see the first Exhibition so promptly and creditably supported, and to experience such cordial assistance and co-operation from the numerous contributors to it. The chief object of the Society of Arts is to improve the taste and to afford facilities for the display of native talent; to combine, as far as may be practicable, the beauty and grace of Italian design with the unrivalled skill and substantial qualities of British workmanship; and auxiliary to this object is the collection and exhibition of Pictures, Designs, and Statuary. The catalogue contains 247 subjects, and the names of 84 artists. There are many good pictures, both Landscapes and Portraits; and whilst we cordially acknowledge the excellence of artists who have attained a well-deserved reputation, we rejoice to see so many students and young painters who are eagerly and successfully pursuing the right course to distinction. There are five paintings, all of them beautiful landscapes, by Mr. J. V. Barker; nineteen by Mr. S. Lines and his Sons, some of which are very good pictures; seven by Mr. Evans, including a fine portrait of Count Woronzow, and another of the late Black Emperor Christophe; seven by Mr. Thomas Wyatt, finely painted. Landscapes, by Messrs. Price, Henshaw, Creswick, Everett, Wallace, Jukes, Roberts, Miss Chawner, &c., &c. Portraits, by Messrs. Coleman, Room, Hobday, Rhodes, Smith, Mills, &c., &c. Game, by Messrs. Wyatt, Walker, Harper, &c. "Lost Money," by Rippingale, a picture which tells its own tale in a very pleasing manner; and six Miniatures of extraordinary beauty, by the Miss Sharpes; and others, by Mrs. Wright, Miss Jabet and Sister, Miss Saunders, &c., &c.

The celebrated sculptor, Chantry, visited the Exhibition prior to its opening, on the 10th of the month. He was met by several of the Committee. He expressed a lively interest in the welfare of the Institution, and suggested many valuable hints in reference to the Exhibition, "of which," we are told "the committee intend to avail themselves."

Another effort was made this year to add to our local literature. On October 15 the "Birmingham Magazine" was advertised:—

On the first of November, 1827, will be published, price One Shilling (to be continued Monthly), the First Number of the Birmingham Magazine, or Literary and Theological Repository. Printed and Published by James Drake, 52, New Street, Birmingham, to whom all Communications are requested to be sent (post paid) for the Editor, and by whom Subscribers' names will be received. Published also on the First of each Month by Messrs. Longman and Co., Paternoster Row, London, and may be had (through them) on application to any Bookseller in the United Kingdom. Arrangements have been made to insert Advertisements on the cover of the work, on reasonable terms.

☞ Prospectuses may be had on application as above.

Like so many of its predecessors and successors, this magazine was destined to have but a short span of life. It survived until July, 1828, having reached its ninth issue. Its contents are varied, and all subjects, religious, political, and social, are treated of, and it is not a bad example of a local magazine.

In December the Rev. Rann Kennedy published his "Tribute in verse to the Character of the late Right Honourable George Canning." The eminent statesman died on August 8 in the same year, 1827.

In the beginning of 1828 Mr. Joseph Parkes published his History of the Court of Chancery. Mr. Brougham, on February 7, in the House of Commons, delivered an elaborate speech on the Administration of the Law, and thus alluded to the work of our townsman :— "If the House requires further authorities upon this point I can refer them to one of the ablest and most instructive books ever published, now on the point of issuing from the press, by Mr. Parkes, a most respectable solicitor of Birmingham; its title is 'A History of the Court of Chancery,' but it incidentally displays an abundance of learning on the history of the common law of this country."

In this year was founded our first School of Medicine and Surgery. The intention was announced on April 21, 1828.

We are informed that a School of Medicine and Surgery will speedily be established in this town, upon the plan of similar institutions already formed at Liverpool, Bristol, Leeds, and Manchester. The system is intended to embrace every essential branch of medical and surgical education, and will consequently save considerable time and expense to the pupils, while it will enable them to reap increased advantages from the public institutions.

In the week following we have the plan of study to be adopted in the new school :—

THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY, ESTABLISHED IN BIRMINGHAM.

April 28, 1828.—The Winter Session of the School commences in October, and the Plan of Study comprehends the following courses of Lectures:

On Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology.—By Mr. W. S. Cox, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, Surgeon to the Royal Dispensary, and Assistant Surgeon to the Town Infirmary.

On the Principles and Practice of Physic.—By John K. Booth, M.D., Member of the Royal Physical Society of Gotingen, formerly Senior President of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh, Member of the Royal College of Physicians, in London, and one of the Physicians to the Birmingham General Hospital.

On Materia Medica and Pharmacy.—By R. Pearson, M.D., Member of the Royal College of Physicians, London, and formerly Physician to the Birmingham General Hospital; and by John Eccles, M.D., Senior Physician to the Birmingham Dispensary.

On the Principles and Practices of Surgery and Surgical Operations.—By Alfred Jukes, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, and one of the Surgeons to the Birmingham General Hospital.

On Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children.—By John Ingleby, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, and Surgeon to the Birmingham Dispensary.

On Chemistry.—By Mr. John Woolrich.

These Lectures will be illustrated by Cases.

Here is a short reference to the instruction given at the Mechanics' Institute:—

August 11, 1828.—At a numerous meeting of the Mechanics' Institution, on Thursday evening, a public examination took place on the subjects comprehended in the four lectures delivered by Mr. Woolrich, on *Pneumatics* and *Hydrostatics*. After an appropriate introduction, Mr. W. entered upon the examination, and proposed a number of questions referring to the principles which he had explained during the course. Many of the members were engaged during the evening in replying to the questions proposed, and whenever an erroneous answer was given, others rose to correct the error. It was evident during the whole of the examination, which was kept up with much spirit, that many of the members were not only well acquainted with the principles of those branches of science, but also with their various applications.

The famous Spurzheim visited the town this year:—

October 13, 1828.—On Thursday Dr. Spurzheim gave, in this town, a very interesting demonstration of the Anatomy of the Brain to a private medical class. The Philosophical Rooms have been engaged for his popular course on Phrenology; and it will be seen that the Doctor delivers his introductory lecture this evening.

The following is a description of a very useful and now very interesting publication. The Map was from a survey made by Mr. J. Piggott Smith:—

December 8, 1828.—The large Map of Birmingham, which has been so long preparing, is announced for publication on Thursday next. The public utility of this work must be obvious when the accuracy and minuteness of the survey in which it is formed are considered, and when it is recollected that it is the only plan of any extent since that published by Hanson in the year 1778. Between that period and the present time the town has increased three-fold in extent and population, and the real property, then in the hands of a few large proprietors, is now subdivided into an immense number of distinct interests. On this account the great importance of a map which defines with clearness and fidelity the principal ownerships at the present day, and which will render it an authority that may hereafter be relied upon, will be readily admitted. To set forth in a still more striking point of view the extraordinary extent of the town, compared with its size about a century ago, a sketch of a plan executed in 1731 appears in one corner of the map, and forms an interesting feature of the work. The execution of the map in its various departments cannot fail to call forth the highest admiration. The survey is so minute as to enable any resident to trace the exact extent of his premises, and as far as we have had the means of ascertaining, is correct in all its minutiæ, exhibiting the result of much talent and persevering industry. In the engraving great taste and skill are exhibited, and the general arrangement and finishing of the work are exceedingly elegant. Those only who have been engaged in undertakings of this kind

can form a just estimate of the labour and expense with which they are attended; a project therefore so successfully completed certainly has a strong claim on the support of those who possess any interest in the town.

On May 4, 1829, we read :—

A meeting of several Gentlemen interested in forming an association in this town in aid of "The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge," was held at the Public Office, on Saturday se'ennight, when a Member of the London Committee reported the present state and objects of the Society, and the successful efforts made by the circulation of upwards of twenty thousand copies of each of the published Elementary Treatises. It was then determined to call a more general meeting of the friends of education and popular instruction, previous to the formation of a Local Association on the principle adopted at Manchester and other large towns. Several immediate public engagements have occasioned the postponement of the second meeting until next week.

On July 13, appeared the following description of the new building for the Exhibitions of the Society of Arts :—

The new building of the society, which are now so near their completion, consist of a magnificent circular Exhibition-room, 52 feet diameter, with a dome roof, and lighted from the centre by a skylight, 25 feet diameter; the ceiling is thrown into panels, and the general effect of the room is novel and striking; indeed, when filled with well painted pictures, we have little doubt of its being considered the finest room of its kind in the kingdom. It is approached from New-street by a spacious flight of steps, and on each side are convenient and well-lighted rooms, one of which will be used as a library or committee-room, and the other as an exhibition-room for sculpture; between the latter and the circular room is a small octagonal room, forming a communication between the two, and which it is intended to use for miniatures or other small works of art. Beyond the large room is a light and spacious room for the exhibition of water-colour drawings, and adjoining thereto is a long room for exhibiting prints. It will thus be evident that every accommodation has been provided which can be required in an exhibition of works of art; and care has been taken so to arrange the rooms as to make them available for the other uses to which the Society will appropriate them. In addition to the rooms above enumerated, accommodations have been provided for the keeper, &c., &c. The exterior elevation in New-street is executed in Bath stone, and is of the Corinthian order of architecture. It has a finely proportioned portico, which, by the permission of the Commissioners of the Streets, it was allowed to extend across the footpath; thus not only affording greater convenience for persons visiting the exhibition in carriages, but also materially adding to the architectural beauty of the edifice. The example which has been chosen by the Architects as their model, and which, although not servilely copied, they have adapted to their purpose, is one of the most chaste and exquisite remains of Roman splendour, the Temple of Jupiter Stator, the purity of which is worthy of the most refined period of Grecian excellence in the arts of design. It is the intention of the Society to erect other buildings beyond the present termination towards the Post Office, so as to entirely exclude any view of the back buildings from New-street, by which the exterior appearance will be greatly increased.

The next quotation gives a full account of the progress of the most important institution for popular education which had, up to this time, been established in the town. We regret to say that the proposal to erect a new building was never carried out :—

BIRMINGHAM MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.

President—Richard Spooner, Esq.
Vice-President—Mr. Edward Corn.
Treasurer—Thomas Attwood, Esq.

The Committee of the Birmingham Mechanics' Institution take the liberty of soliciting assistance to raise a Fund for the purpose of erecting a Building suitable to its valuable objects. With this view they beg leave to submit the following particulars to public consideration.

The Institution was established in January, 1826, for the Promotion of Knowledge among the Working Classes by means of Elementary Schools, a Library, and Lectures on the different branches of Art and Science.

Since that period to Midsummer last the donations and annual subscriptions have amounted to upwards of £900, and no less than 1,550 persons have been enrolled members. With a view to the instruction of the members in arithmetic, the mathematics, and ornamental and architectural drawing, various classes have been formed, which have been numerously attended, with great advantage to the pupils. In addition to the classes, weekly lectures, including valuable courses upon chemistry and mechanics by eminent lecturers from the metropolis, have been supplied from the funds of the Institution. Many highly valuable courses have also been gratuitously given by several literary and scientific honorary members. The practical benefits of this system of instruction have been amply displayed by the public examinations of the last two years; whilst the distribution of medals and other prizes has excited a valuable spirit of emulation among the junior members.

The obstacles usually opposed to the first formation and success of new establishments have been surmounted by the obvious and acknowledged utility of the Institution, and by the zeal of the members; and the increasing support it receives from the classes for which it was peculiarly designed, has insured its stability and extended its usefulness.

The Meetings of the Institution have been hitherto held in the School Room of a Public Building, the use of which has been liberally and gratuitously granted. This room, though very commodious and well adapted to the objects for which it was erected, is, nevertheless, inconveniently arranged for the purposes of a Mechanics' Institution. Great and increasing inconvenience also arises from the Library and Class-rooms being in a different part of the town from that in which the Lecture-room is situated.

Under these circumstances the Committee have resolved to make a strenuous effort to obtain adequate funds for the erection of a Building in every respect suitable to the objects of their Institution; and they confidently anticipate the same success that has attended similar attempts in Manchester, Liverpool, and other large provincial towns. For the accomplishment of their object, the Committee have obtained plans of the different Buildings and Lecture-rooms of the Metropolis, and have selected a design which will be

found to combine simplicity, economy, and utility. The projected Lecture Room is calculated to accommodate 1,000 persons. Library, Reading, Class, and Model Rooms are included in the design, and will be under the same roof. The estimated cost of the entire building is £1,700, but to include all incidental expenses it is proposed to raise £2,000, which will be amply sufficient for every possible contingency. Part of this sum, the Committee confidently hope, will be obtained by donations; the remainder it is intended to raise in shares of £5 each, upon which the Institution has proposed to pay a clear rent of £5 per cent.

The increasing desire for popular instruction which has been already excited among the Working Classes, leaves no doubt on the minds of the Committee, that the erection of a public building expressly devoted to a Birmingham Mechanics' Institute, would progressively and greatly increase both its Subscribers and Funds.

N.B.—Persons desirous of forwarding the above object, either by donations or money, or subscriptions for shares, will please communicate their intentions to any of the following Gentlemen: Richard Spooner, Esq.; Thomas Attwood, Esq.; Mr. Edward Corn, Paradise Street; Mr. Joseph Parkes, Temple Street; Mr. William Redfern, Newhall Street; Mr. T. C. Salt, Paradise Street: Mr. Thomas Halliday, Newhall Street; Mr. Francis Clark, Lionel Street; or the Secretary, 105, New Street.

In this year was held the first of those delightful *Conversazione*, in the room of the Society of Artists, which still form the most pleasing reunions of their kind in the town. At first they were held monthly, then occasionally; but at last it was found desirable to limit them to one during the season, which is the custom at the present time, and may it long continue to be so! The following is the enthusiastic account, furnished by the contemporary chronicler, of the first of those pleasant gatherings :—

November 9, 1829.—Although it has been our good fortune to be present at many entertainments among our townsmen of a highly sociable and delightful character, we do not recollect any that has appeared to have given more general satisfaction and pleasure than the first of a series of meetings which took place at the rooms of the Society of Arts, on Wednesday evening last. The true spirit of courtesy shown by the Committee, in presenting to their neighbours at large an opportunity of partaking of an elegant and intellectual species of amusement, has been met with a corresponding and approving warmth of feeling that will not fail closely to identify the interests of the society with the town, and materially to advance and extend its objects. The rooms were splendidly lighted up, and the company invited began to arrive at eight o'clock. The parties were received on their entrance by several members of the committee, and immediately advanced into the circle. The ladies for the most appeared in full evening dress, occasionally, however, relieved by others in fancy and promenade costume.

The preparations included a plentiful supply of tea, coffee, &c., which was provided in the large room, and partaken of at the pleasure of those assembled. Though well filled, the circular room was by no means inconveniently crowded at any period of the evening, and parties were enabled to amuse themselves in conversation or in viewing the pictures,

as they felt at the moment disposed. The entire arrangements evidently gave universal satisfaction to the company, and gaiety and pleasure beamed on every countenance. The parties began to retire about half-past ten, and the rooms were cleared a few minutes after eleven. In the course of the evening, we have the pleasure of adding, several gentlemen were induced to inscribe their names as annual contributors to the society, and among others our newly-elected High Bailiff, William Chance, Esq., whose subscription was liberally accompanied by a donation of ten guineas. The next Conversazione is to take place on Wednesday evening, and it will no doubt be as numerously and respectably attended. We understand it is in the contemplation of the Committee to close the Exhibition, some time in the ensuing month, with a similar entertainment, which, on that occasion, will be strictly confined to the donors and subscribers to the society and their families.

The educational record of the year closes with this unwelcome announcement :—

December 14, 1829.—We understand that, by a recent order in Chancery, the Branch School in Shutt-lane, on the foundation of King Edward's Free Grammar School in this town, is declared to be unauthorised by the charter; and in consequence it will be discontinued at the ensuing Christmas. This school has been for many years under the care of the present master, Mr. Downes, and by his exemplary and efficient conduct has been rendered the means of great and extensive usefulness; it is therefore hoped that that Gentleman will be induced to continue it on his own account, and we feel persuaded he will meet with that patronage and support to which his merits and long course of public service so justly entitle him. We learn also that the Governors, under the same order, are likewise compelled to discontinue the Drawing School at Christmas.

The great educational labour of the year 1830 was the attempt to obtain a new act for the Free Grammar School. On May 24, we have this analysis of the proposed act :—

It is entitled "an Act to enable the Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the Free Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth, in Birmingham, in the County of Warwick, to pull down the present Master's houses, and School house, in New-street, in the town of Birmingham, and to make and erect more suitable accommodations on a new site in the vicinity of the town, and to procure such new site, and to extend the objects of the charity, by erecting and making on the old site in New-street, accommodations suitable for a New School, for teaching modern languages, the arts, and sciences; and to make certain additions to the estates of the said charity by purchase, and to raise money for the purposes aforesaid, by applying certain funds now belonging to the said charity, and by sale of part of the estates belonging thereto, and by mortgage, and for other purposes;" and it commences with a recital of various reports, decrees, and orders of the Court of Chancery, terminating with the Master's General Report, dated April 27, 1830. This Report authorises the Governors to apply to Parliament for the objects therein mentioned; and an Order of Court, dated on the following day, directs "that the said Free Grammar School be established and conducted according to the scheme approved by the Master, and comprised in the third schedule of the Act.

The Act proposes to empower the Governors to select a new site for the School in the vicinity of Birmingham, and to erect on such new site Masters' houses, a School house, and other buildings suitable for the purpose of a Free Grammar School; to pull down the present houses and school in New-street, and to erect in their stead Masters' houses, a school house, and conveniences for a New School for teaching modern languages, the arts and sciences. The Governors are further empowered, if necessary, to purchase the land and houses adjoining the present site, for the purpose of adding to the site of the proposed New School; to raise money by mortgages, the amount of which is not to exceed £50,000, unless a new site on the land adjoining be purchased, in which case so much more shall be raised as shall be required for making such purchases. The Act then provides that the Free Grammar School shall be regulated according to the scheme approved by the Court of Chancery, and that the New School shall be regulated by a scheme hereafter to be approved by the Court; this latter scheme is to comprise the nomination and number of Masters, amount of their salaries, the particular branches of education to be taught by them, and the number and qualification of scholars to be received. A subsequent clause proposes to qualify, as Governors, persons residing within five miles of the present school, who shall in other respects be qualified, although such persons "be not inhabitants of the town, parish, or manor of Birmingham;" and another clause preserves to the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, for the time being, any powers or authorities to which he may be entitled before the passing of the act.

The bill met with strong opposition from the Dissenters, especially the clause restricting the election of future Governors to members of the Established Church. A number of meetings were held, and a deputation appointed to oppose the bill. They laid the following statement before the public :—

May 24, 1830.—CASE of the Dissenters and others, in Opposition to a certain Clause in the Birmingham Free Grammar School Bill.

In the year 1553, King Edward 6th granted Letters patent for the establishment of the Free Grammar School in Birmingham, and "willed and ordained, that for the future there should be twenty men of the more discreet and more trusty inhabitants of the town and parish of Birmingham, or of the manor of Birmingham, who should be Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the said Schools," nor does the Charter prescribe any other limitation of the persons from among whom the Governors are to be successively elected.

The present Governors of the School, nevertheless, have submitted to Parliament a Bill, which has been already read a second time in the House of Lords, and is to go before a Committee of that House on Friday next, the 28th of May, which contains a clause (pp. 39, 46) directing "that no person shall be elected a Governor who is not a member of the Established Church of England."

To this clause the Dissenters from the Established Church, and others, residing within the town, parish, and manor of Birmingham, object that it is not in accordance with either the letter or the spirit of the Royal Founder's Charter, but in effect contravenes both; they further allege that the proposed restriction does great injustice to a large and important portion of the inhabitants of Birmingham, by declaring them ineligible to an

office which, until within a recent period, some of their ancestors held, and uniformly administered with strict impartiality.

And above all, they submit that the enactment complained of in this Private Bill directly invades a great Public principle, since it re-establishes, so far as the Corporation of the Birmingham Free School is concerned, those disabilities from which Dissenters from the Church of England have been relieved by the Repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts.

As the School was founded for the common benefit of the town, parish, and manor of Birmingham, without exception, it is submitted that eligibility to the situation of Governors should continue to be the privilege of all; the rather, since the harmony and goodwill of the town and neighbourhood are disturbed by the introduction of the proposed enactment, and would be yet more seriously injured by its becoming a law.

For these reasons the Dissenters, resident in Birmingham, respectfully hope that their case will be fully considered by the individual members of the British Legislature, whose wise and kind, whose just and salutary measures, during the last two Sessions of Parliament, in behalf of Dissidents from the Established Church, will be locally frustrated, if the bill should be passed into a law in its present form.

Birmingham, May 20, 1830.

A number of statements were made both by the Governors and the opposition. The latter were successful; and we read on July 5, this brief report of the loss of the bill:—

The Free School Bill was, last week, rejected by the House of Lords. Its clauses were considered in committee on Monday and Tuesday, and its third reading was fixed for Thursday. On the subject being introduced to the house on the latter day, a petition was presented by Earl Grey from the deputation appointed to oppose the bill, praying, for reasons therein assigned, that its third reading might not take place. The petition having been read, the Earl of Shaftesbury moved that the bill be then read a third time. The motion, which was supported by Lord Calthorpe, Earl Ferrers, and the Earl of Harrowby, and opposed by the Earls of Radnor, Grey, Carnarvon, and Lord Dacre, was eventually negatived by a division of 22 to 16. The bill is consequently lost.

The following is the record of the beginning of the branch schools in connection with King Edward the Sixth's foundation. Their establishment forms a most important epoch in the history of this charity:—

BIRMINGHAM FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

November 29, 1830.—At a meeting of the Committee for conducting the opposition to the Free School Bill, on Friday, a memorial, signed by upwards of seven hundred mechanics, was presented, calling the attention of the Committee to the appropriation of some portion of the funds of the Charity to the education of the children of the poorer classes in local districts of the town. The Committee resolved to take the subject into consideration at its next meeting, and in the meantime to make it public.

Early in 1831 the Birmingham Law Society established their Library. The following is the report of the meeting:—

February 7, 1831.—At a numerous and highly-respectable Meeting of the Barristers and Attorneys practising in Birmingham and the Neighbourhood, held at Dee's Royal Hotel, on Tuesday, the first day of February instant, John Meredith, Esq., President of the Birmingham Law Society, in the Chair, the following, among other resolutions, were unanimously passed :—

That in the opinion of this Meeting it is highly desirable to establish a Law Library in Birmingham, for the benefit of those Members of the Profession who may be disposed to give it their support.

That the same be established under the name of "The Birmingham Law Library," and that the requisite funds be raised by subscriptions of £10, the current expenses to be provided by annual subscriptions.

That the following Gentlemen be appointed a Committee, with power to add to their number, to consider the best means of carrying the former resolutions into effect, to regulate the amount and plan of annual subscriptions, and to frame rules for the government of the institution :—

Mr. Meredith	Mr. W. Wills
Mr. Gem	Mr. W. Redfern
Mr. Barker	Mr. Barlow
Mr. Tyndall	Mr. Burman
Mr. T. E. Lee	Mr. W. S. Harding
Mr. Ingleby	Mr. A. Ryland
Mr. Keswick	

That the Rules, when prepared, be submitted to a General Meeting, to be convened by the Committee.

JOHN MEREDITH, Chairman.

. . . . . .

Mr. Arthur Ryland, Solicitor, Temple Street, Honorary Secretary.

In less than a week upwards of £600 were subscribed towards the necessary outlay.

The Free Grammar School Bill was again before Parliament this year; and it passed the House of Lords without alteration. An opposition was, however, organised, and a meeting was held on Wednesday, March the 23rd :—

The Meeting was convened by the requisitionists themselves, in consequence of the absence of the High Bailiff. The Rev. John Kentish was called to the Chair, and the principal speakers in support of the objects of the Meeting were Mr. Scholefield, the Rev. John Corrie, and the Rev. T. M. M'Donnell. A petition to the House of Commons was agreed to, and is in the course of signature; but its length precludes its appearance this week. A second petition founded on a memorial from the mechanics of the town, was also ordered to be prepared for signature and presentation A deputation consisting of Messrs. Wills, Parkes, Redfern, and Barlow, Solicitors, was nominated to take charge of the petitions in Parliament; and a Sub-Committee was formed to canvass

for subscriptions in aid of the opposition. The Bill was read a second time in the House of Commons on Monday last, March 21; but no day, we believe, is yet fixed for going into Committee, in which stage the opposition, we suppose, will be made.

On April 25 the following welcome announcement was published :—

BIRMINGHAM FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

We feel pleasure in being enabled to announce that all the points of difference relating to the intended Free School Act, have at length been arranged; and that, as now agreed to, the Bill will be introduced early in the next Session of Parliament, and allowed to pass *pro forma* through all its stages.

The two next extracts relate to the Fine Arts :—

April 18, 1831.—Birmingham has long been denominated "The Toy-shop of Europe," and when we reflect upon the infinite variety, elegance, and beauty of its productions, and of their importance in a commercial point of view, we are justly proud of that distinction; but it is gratifying to perceive that our artists are soaring far above the mere inventor or maker of toys. We have reason to boast of the efforts which have been made in the higher branches of art, in the achievements of the historical painter and sculptor; and it is with particular pleasure we call the attention of our fellow townsmen to that superb effort of genius now exhibiting in the large room adjoining Wilday's Royal Hotel—we mean the Statue of the venerable Major Cartwright. We speak of this, cast in bronze and executed by our highly gifted townsman Mr. Clarke, not merely as presenting a most striking resemblance of a man of undoubted ability and virtue, but as an instance of success in the highest department of the arts, which ought to confer pleasure on every man who feels for the rising reputation of our native town.

Our townsman, Mr. Peter Hollins, has just opened an exhibition of his works of Sculpture in London; and we have great satisfaction in extracting several highly favourable notices respecting it from the London papers. We understand that at the private view each day the rooms were crowded, and that on Saturday week upwards of four hundred persons visited the exhibition.

The recently established School of Medicine was very successful, and, as will be seen from the two following quotations, had to enlarge its premises :—

Sept. 12, 1831.—We are authorised to state, that a plan will be shortly brought before the public to enlarge the School of Medicine, and to form a Museum and Library connected with every department of medical science, open at all times to the medical profession and to students of medicine, and at stated periods to the public. It is also intended to vest the appointments of the Lecturers in the hands of trustees and governors. Handsome donations to effect this object have been already presented by Earl Spencer, the Earl of Dartmouth, Lord Viscount Hood, Sir Eardley Wilmot, Bart., Sir Astley Cooper, Bart., Francis Lawley, Esq., M.P., James Taylor, Esq., E. Johnstone, M.D., the Low Bailiff, &c., &c. Dr. Johnstone has been elected President, and Dr. John Johnstone Vice-President.

Oct. 31, 1831.—We are requested to state that the enlargement of the School of Medicine for the reception of the Public Museum and Library is nearly completed and,

that Edward Johnstone, Esq., of the Inner Temple, and John Meredith, Esq., have been elected the legal advisers. The expensive works of plates by Bright, Armstrong, Alibert, Mechel, Lobstein, Sandefort, Bleuland, Tiedermann, and Cruveilier, have been ordered; and also, from the Continent, a series of splendid preparations in wax, illustrative of anatomy and pathology. Among the names of donors during the past week are those of the Right Hon. Lord Calthorpe, and John Gough Esq., of Perry Hall. A further list will appear in a future paper.

In this year was celebrated the

SUNDAY SCHOOL JUBILEE.

Sept. 19, 1831.—The Fiftieth Anniversary of the institution of Sunday Schools, and the birth-day of Mr. Raikes, their reputed founder, was celebrated on Wednesday last in Birmingham, in common whith the metropolis and most of the towns of the kingdom, by a general assembling of the children under tuition, their teachers and those friendly to this mode of instruction, both among the members of the Established Church and Dissenters.

. . . . . .

When it is considered that the numbers in the Schools connected with the Establishment amounted nearly to *four thousand;* those connected with the Sunday School Union to *five thousand;* to the Old and New Meeting *fourteen hundred;* and to the Wesleyan Methodists *three thousand;*—forming a total of upwards of *thirteen thousand:* and that no accident or disorder occurred at any of the places of assembly, the greatest credit is justly due to those teachers and friends, by whose assiduity, care and attention so gratifying a result, both to the children and to the public, was afforded.

And thus we close the educational record of a decade which was very earnest in making provision for the instruction and improvement of the people. The town is now reaping the harvest of the seed sown in this active period of our history.

§ 4. AMUSEMENTS.

In the spring of 1822, the lovers of music had a rare treat in the visit of Madame Catalani. She was accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Yainciez, and gave two concerts at the Theatre Royal. The prices were, Boxes 10s., Pit 7s., and Gallery 5s. Here is the contemporary record of the visit of this wonderful vocalist :—

MADAME CATALANI.

March 4, 1822.—This highly gifted and accomplished singer, after an absence of upwards of seven years, gave last week two concerts at our Theatre. Since her last visit to this town, her voice, retaining to the fullest extent its remarkable volume and rich variety of tone, has acquired a high degree of mellowness and distinctness of expression. The brilliancy and wonderful rapidity of her execution, and expressiveness of manner, are also retained in their full force. All the pieces selected for her, but more particularly

"Rode's celebrated Air," which she sung on both evenings, were well calculated to call her best powers into action, and their execution was received with enthusiastic delight. Several of her songs were encored, and repeated, if possible, with increased beauty and effect. The improvement in her articulation of the English language was strikingly manifested in her masterly performance of the recitative and air, in "Comfort ye my People," &c. In the National Airs of God Save the King and Rule Britannia she drew forth the most rapturous applause.

Madame Catalani was very ably assisted by Mr. Kelbner, who sang a number of songs each night with a finish, taste, and feeling, that made a forcible impression on his auditors. Two or three airs which he gave of a national character were peculiarly distinguished, and their repetition was called for in a manner highly flattering to him. Mr. Vainciez led the band, and on the last evening played a concerto on the violin, remarkable for its richness and delicacy of movement, and the audience testified their delight by continued plaudits. The effect of the performance was heightened by the skilful execution of M. Claichitteni on the Pianoforte. The house was on both nights most respectably but not very numerously attended.

The regular theatrical season opened on May 20, and among the principal performers engaged were,—Miss Dance, of Covent Garden Theatre; Miss L. Kelly, from the Bath Theatre; Mrs. Waylett, Miss Middleton, Mrs. Young, and Miss Forbes, from the Liverpool Theatre; Mr. Wrench and Mr. J. Reeve, from the English Opera House; Mr. Russell, from the Haymarket and Dublin Theatres; Mr. Mude, Mr. Butler, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Thorne, and Mr. Yarnold, from the York Theatre.

A dramatic periodical was thus announced :—

THEATRICAL LOOKER ON.

May 27, 1822.—This present Monday, May 27th, at one o'clock, will be published, price one Penny, No. 1 of a Theatrical Publication, *to be continued weekly*, entitled The Theatrical Looker-On.

"For I am nothing, if not critical."

Birmingham; printed for and published by James Drake, 123, New Street, and may be had of all the other Booksellers in Birmingham.

This publication reached twenty-five numbers, and is still worth looking into, if only to see the kind of thing that provincial dramatic criticism was in those days. There was a rare opportunity for exercising the art, for Edmund Kean appeared this season. He made his first appearance on June 24, in Richard the Third. During his engagement he played Sir Giles Overreach, Lucius Junius Brutus, Othello, Macbeth, and De Montfort, in Joanna Baillie's play of that name. Mr. Kean was followed by Mr. Young, who played Hamlet, Zanga, in the Revenge, King John, Brutus, King Lear, Posthumus Leonatus, in Cymberline,

and Coriolanus. Munden, Harley, Blanchard, and Miss M. Tree also appeared this season. These names and the dramas performed are in striking contrast with the entertainments which our theatres now generally offer to attract the public.

Sight-seers were this year gratified by the presence of so very attractive a spectacle as

Nov. 25, 1822.—Madame Tussaud's Exhibition at our Theatre has been crowded daily since its opening, and, from the satisfaction expressed by its visitors, there is every reason to expect this ingenious artist will meet the encouragement she so well deserves. Many of the most respectable families of the town and neighbourhood have thus early been attracted : and so agreeable a lounge has it been found, that her list of subscribers exhibits the names of upwards of two hundred persons. The hours of exhibition in the evening derive additional attraction from the attendance of a well-selected military band, which plays from the opening to the close.

The once celebrated French Giant visited us early in 1823 :—

Feb. 17, 1823.—We have pleasure in calling attention to the exhibition of Monsieur L. Jacques, the celebrated French Giant, in the Garrick Room at our Theatre. He is 7 feet 4 inches high, of amazing strength, well proportioned, and we doubt not but that his gentlemanly and polite behaviour will ensure him the approbation of all who visit him.

The theatre opened for the season on May 12, with the School for Scandal; and on June the 2nd was performed for the first time the Romance of Cherry and Fair Star, and a rather long and very glowing account is given both of the piece and the performance. Cherry and Fair Star was followed by Mr. W. C. Macready, who appeared on July 7th in Virginius; he also played during this engagement Othello, Macbeth, Rob Roy, King John, the new part of Julian in the tragedy of that name, Cardinal Wolsey, and Delaval, in Matrimony, He was supported by Mrs. Bunn. Mr. W. Farren appeared on July 21, for one night only, when he played Lord Ogleby, in the Clandestine Marriage. Mr. Elliston and Mr. and Mrs. C. Kemble performed in July and August. On the 4th of the latter month the following announcement was published :—

We are given to understand that the performances of the celebrated Colonel Berkeley and the other Cheltenham Amateurs, at our Theatre, will consist of two representations, one of which our Manager generously intends devoting in aid of the funds of the Institution for the education of the Deaf and Dumb at Edgbaston.

The criticism (?) of these Cheltenham Amateurs is as follows :—

THEATRE ROYAL.

August 25, 1823.—The performances of the Cheltenham Amateurs, as was naturally expected, created no ordinary degree of curiosity, and it gives us pleasure to say, that we remember no occasion on which public excitement was more thoroughly gratified. Colonel Berkeley's representation of the *Prince of Wales* and *Faulconbridge* was strongly marked with excellence, and the scholar and finished gentlemen were ever conspicuous. His fine and manly person, his correct and impressive delivery, his perfect self-possession, and the peculiar ease with which he walked across the stage, contributed to give the highest interest to the performance; and the distinguished rank he holds in society being considered, it excited the greatest astonishment that he could so completely identify himself with such an arduous undertaking. Captain Berkeley's *Sir John Falstaff* may fairly be classed among the very best performances of the character we can call to mind, and, without reference to its being an effort of an amateur, it cannot be pronounced otherwise than a most able and masterly exertion. The rich vein of humour so characteristic of the Jolly Knight was never for an instant lost sight of, and the peculiarities of the part were kept up with undiminished effect to the end. The subordinate characters of *Francis* and *Poins* were enacted with proportionate justice by Major Dawkins and another gentleman. *King John*, which is, perhaps, one of the most trying parts on the stage, and in which but few *professional* men make even a respectable stand, was pourtrayed by Colonel Berkeley in a very superior style, and evidently with an ease and confidence the result both of genius and close study.

In the farces of the *Follies of a Day*, and *Simpson and Co.*, Colonel Berkeley was eminently successful. The bustle, gallantry, and point thrown into the character of *Almaviva* by its author, were all in high keeping; and in *Bromley*, the man of fashion was admirably delineated, and the same strict adherence to the spirit of the original manifested. Major Dawkins' *Figaro* and *Simpson* were both exceedingly happy, and he infused into them a spirit altogether perfectly new. The united exertion of these gentlemen, we need hardly add, were received on each night with an applause which, we trust, was gratifying to them, and which proceeded from the most complete feeling of satisfaction that probably ever pervaded a theatre. The house was crowded on both evenings. We are sure we carry with us the sentiments of the supporters of the charity, for the benefit of which they so promptly assented to perform on the second night, when we express the deep sense of obligation under which the Colonel and friends have placed the institution; and it must give the distinguished and benevolent individuals great satisfaction to know that the funds will derive much important advantage from the success attending their exertions. We cannot also omit to advert to the kindness with which Mrs. Bunn stepped forward in aid of the interests of the charity, and to the very efficient manner in which, as usual, she enacted the parts of *Lady Constance* and *Mrs. Simpson*.

In September Mr. Grimaldi and Mr. J. S. Grimaldi delighted young and old with their comic pantomine. Miss M. Tree, Miss Stephens, and Mr. Braham closed this extraordinary season.

Sight-seers were introduced to a novelty in 1824, in the shape of *La Poupee Parlante*, a French Speaking Doll. The "illustrious Stranger" was thus announced :—

FRENCH NOVELTY.

March 1, 1824. The Speaking Doll, shown with so much eclat at the late exposition, in the Palace of the Louvre, Paris, still continues to attract the most brilliant company to the Magasin of Kendall and Son, 15, Bull Ring, Birmingham. The droll idea which first prompted the inventor to make this celebrated Doll, is alone sufficient to attract the notice of the curious; but the novelty is materially heightened by its being the first attempt ever made, with any degree of success, to form Human Organization by means of Mechanism.

The Proprietors, as heretofore, will feel the greatest pleasure in submitting it to the inspection of any lady or gentleman who may chose to honour them with a visit.

The theatrical season presented nothing this year calling for special notice. The controversy with the Rev. J. A. James was, perhaps, excitement enough to produce good houses. The one event of the year was the production of the Battle of Waterloo, for which one hundred men "who had served in the battle" were required. The advertisement also stated that "none will be allowed to engage but those who produce medals."

In May, 1825, the public were entertained by an Infant Phenomenon. The following is the announcement :—

ROYAL HOTEL ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BIRMINGHAM.

On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 9th, 10th, 12th, and 13th of May, 1825—the celebrated Infant Roscius, only seven years and a quarter old, from the extreme pressure of the company, and from the most unbounded applause with which he has been received during the whole of his inimitable Performance, has induced him to select *four more Evenings' Amusement only*, entirely changing the whole of his Performance from the last week, commencing with a *new introduction;* and in the place of the Melo-drama the Infant Roscius will go through the much-admired and very humorous Comedy of *Pecks of Troubles;* or, *The Distresses of the French Barber;* the whole of his songs, and scenes in Macbeth, Pizarro, Merchant of Venice, Richard III, and Douglas, which will be entirely changed as usual, and conclude with the *Musical Glasses.*

The Theatre opened under new management this season. An address was delivered on the occasion, of which a copy is preserved:—

OCCASIONAL ADDRESS,

spoken by Mr. Warde, at the opening of the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, under his management, on Monday, the 23rd day of May, 1825; written by Thomas H. Bayly, Esq., author of "Rough Sketches of Bath," "Melodies of various Nations," "Miniature Lyrics," &c., &c.

When a new Landlord takes a well-known Inn,
How should the Novice's career begin?

If all the house is properly prepar'd,
Larder and cellar stock'd, and beds well air'd;

Servants engaged—all promising recruits,
From the head waiter down to Bob the Boots—
Surely the Host himself with smiles should wait
On the first Guest assembled at the gate;
Present his bill of fare, and hope they'll find
Each little item perfect of its kind.
I am a Host to-night; my hope now rests
On this, my Public House, and these, my guests.
My constant aim shall be to meet your wishes,
I've ordered in a stock of tempting dishes;
Old wine made mellow and improved by age,
New fruits just sent us from the London stage;
The Comic trifle and the Tragic bowl,
"The feast of reason and the flow of soul!"

My decorations too are quite complete,
Best rooms, and attics also, clean and neat;
Each crevice freshly painted, washed, and burnish'd,
And all my snug apartments newly furnish'd;
In short, your Host thus humbly recommends
This House of Entertainment to his friends.

Yet hold—of Entertainment did I say?
Hath not the Drama's sun-shine pass'd away?
Is not poor dear Thalia almost mute?
And sad Melpomene in disrepute?
Because *recherché* people all dine late,
And think no food digestible till eight!
Doth not Dame Fashion drive her slaves about,
In an unvaried round, from rout to rout?
To see the present ball reflect the past,
And every rout a ditto of the last?
To be to-night, where nightly they have been,
While Shakespear's Dramas pass unheard—unseen!

And is our cause a bad one? Must I stop,
Hopeless of patronage, and shut up shop?
No, no; my efforts have already met
Applauses here which I can ne'er forget;
And shall I tremble, when success depends
Upon the favour of my former friends?
Forbid it gratitude! With true delight
I welcome those who grace these walls to-night.
Oh! may the comic banquet I prepare
Exceed the promise of my bill of fare;
May each part please when on the boards 'tis placed—
Not over done, but sweeten'd to your taste;
And may your present Landlord long remain,
Happy to see you "cut and come again."

On June 21, Master Burke, a child only six years of age, made his first appearance. "He led the orchestra on the Violin in the celebrated Overture to Lodoiska in a most masterly style, and afterwards appeared as Terry O'Rourke, in the farce of the Irish Tutor, and performed the character with the skill and ability of a veteran of the stage."

During the season Mr. Macready, Mr. Sapio, Mr. Matthews, and Miss Foote, appeared. In September the following performance was the great attraction :—

September 26, 1825.—An interlude from the Melo-drama of *Valentine and Orson*, called the Wild Man and the Bear, in which a real Bear, the property of Mr. Simpson, (proprietor of the celebrated Newfoundland Dogs, Carlo and Lion) and taught and managed by him, will exhibit his extraordinary performance.

The Evening's Entertainment to conclude with the Melo-drama of The Caravan; or, The Driver and his Dog; on which occasion a Reservoir, containing 2,000 *cubic feet of real water*, will be introduced. The last scene exhibits a Waterfall and Lake of Water, into which the Dog Carlo is seen to plunge, and saves the life of the child Julio!

This was followed by

Mr. Davis's Equestrian Company and Beautiful Stud of Horses.

This present Monday, October 10, will be performed (for the first time at this Theatre,) the grand and interesting Dramatic, Equestrian, and Military Spectacle, called the Invasion of Russia; or, the Burning of Moscow.

In this magnificent Drama, (the most costly on the British Stage) the striking historical subjects are faithfully depicted, which distinguished that momentous epoch, with correct incidents, local scenery, military costume, and uniforms of the different nations, and soldiery of all arms, trains of artillery and baggage waggons, pack horses, carts of sick and wounded, bands of music, colours, ensigns, and all the extensive appurtenances of military array, illustrations of the modes of warfare, splendid cavalry manœuvres, &c.

In November, we learn "that Mr. Ducrow has taken our Theatre for a short period, and intends opening it with an Equestrian Performance, on Monday next," so that the horses were the principal attractions of the year.

In 1826 Mr. Macready played at the Theatre Royal, previous to his departure for America. An incident occurred which shows the liberality of the great player. It is thus recorded :—

August 28, 1826.—It is pretty generally known that the receipts of the house on Monday last, the evening on which Mr. Macready took final leave of his Birmingham friends, prior to his departure for America, were early on the following morning abstracted from the treasury. It would appear that the villains, no doubt adepts in their vocation,

and possessed of every necessary information, had concealed themselves within the walls of the house, until the time at which the watchmen upon the premises generally leave, and then having unobstructed access to the stage, they forced open the door of the treasury, and finding the key of the iron chest, without further difficulty obtained possession of two hundred pounds, principally in silver, with which they escaped unobserved. The liberality of Mr. Macready on the occasion ought, for the honour of the profession of which he is so distinguished a member, to be universally known. Upon being made acquainted with the serious consequences with which the loss threatened the Manager, Mr. Macready not merely relinquished all claim upon the amount received, but even consented to perform a second night without remuneration. He accordingly sustained the character of Virginius, on the Thursday, to an audience nearly as numerous as on the first night, and the Manager was fully reimbursed. It is hardly necessary to say that the warmth with which Mr. Macready was received on his re-appearance, gave full assurance that his kind and disinterested conduct was duly appreciated. Mr. Macready left on the following day for Cheltenham and Bristol, whence he proceeds to Liverpool, and embarks for New York on Friday. Two young men, strongly suspected of being parties in the robbery, are in custody, and have been remanded for further examination; but how far the charge can be brought home to them is not yet known. A reward of twenty pounds has been offered on conviction of the depredators.

On Friday, October 13, the "Heir at Law" was played, Lord Duberly by a gentleman amateur of Birmingham. On this occasion Paul Pry delivered an address "riding on a real ass." Is there any ironical comparison intended in this announcement?

In May and June, 1827, Mr. Liston appeared in several of his best characters, and he was succeeded by Miss Love, Mr. Braham, Miss A. Tree, Miss Stephens, Mr. Warde, and Miss Jarman. On August 6 this announcement appeared:—

Mr. Simpson respectfully informs his Friends and the Public that Arthur Matthison, the Pet of the Fancy, will make his bow once more on the Stage, but not that stage on which his hard-earned laurels were won. No—but on the Stage of the Theatre Royal, in the character of "Jocko," for the benefit of his friend Hector Simpson, Proprietor of the Dogs Carlo and Lion. Arthur seems confident that he can rival Le Mazurier, Gouffe, Parsloe, &c., and hopes his Friends will, as usual, rally round him from one end of the country to the other.

Arthur will be happy to serve his Friends with as many Tickets as they may want, at his house, King's Head, Digbeth, any time previous to the night in question, which is fixed for Monday, the 13th instant.

On November 27 and 28 the manager produced Italian Operas, at "Theatre prices."

Ryan's "New Grand Arena," in Bradford Street, was opened this year; and the ordinary amusements seem to have displayed their usual activity.

In 1828 the Theatre was opened in January for the purpose of introducing the following novelty :—

THEATRE ROYAL, BIRMINGHAM.

January 21, 1828.—THE AFRICAN ROSCIUS, a most extraordinary novelty, a MAN OF COLOUR, whose successful performances in the round of Moorish and African Characters in the Theatres Royal, Manchester, Liverpool, Brighton, Bristol, &c., have excited a considerable degree of interest in the Theatrical world, the novelty of which has induced Mr. Melmoth to engage him for a few nights previous to his appearance at the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, next month.

This present Monday, January 21, will be performed the Operatic Drama of the Slave; Zelinda, by Miss Graddon; Gambia, by the African Roscius.

The regular dramatic season opened on May 26, with Mr. Macready for six nights, and a company which included Messrs. Burton, Henry, Wilton, Bellamy, Brunton, Dobbs, and Gardner; Miss Huddart, Miss Ashton, and Miss Foote. In June Mr. T. P. Cooke was with us; and in July Madame Vestris appeared for three nights. On the 7th of July Mr. "Kean the younger" made his first appearance in Birmingham in the character of Romeo. He was only engaged for three nights. On August 11, Mr. Macready commenced a short engagement as Macbeth. On October 7, Madame Catalani appeared for one night. On November 3, Mr. Liston performed Paul Pry and the Illustrious Stranger, for the benefit of Mr. Brunton. It was "positively the only night he can act here this season." Mr. Dobbs took his benefit on November 24, when he introduced some new comic songs and duets of his own composing. "The Gun Trade," and "I can't find Brummagem," became, for a time, popular street ballads. As a specimen of his powers, and in proof of the enormous changes which had taken place in the town during twenty years, I quote the latter song :—

I CAN'T FIND BRUMMAGEM.

AIR *Rob Roy M'Gregor, O!*

Full twenty years, and more, are past,
Since I left Brummagem;
But I set out for home a last,
To good old Brummagem.
But every place is altered so,
There's hardly a single place I know;
nd it fills my heart with grief and woe,
For I can't find Brummagem.

As I walked down our street,
As used to be in Brummagem,
I know'd nobody I did meet,
They change their faces in Brummagem.
Poor old Spiceal Street's half gone,
And the poor Old Church stands all alone,
And poor old I stand here to groan,
For I can't find Brummagem.

But 'mongst the changes we have got,
In good old Brummagem,
They've made a market of the *Mott*,*
To sell the pigs in Brummagem.
But that has brought us most ill luck,
They've filled up poor old Pudd.ng Brook.
Where in the mud I've often stuck,
Catching *jackbanils*† near Brummagem.

But what's more melancholy still
For poor old Brummagem.
They've taken away all Newhall-hill:
Poor old Brummagem!
At Easter time, girls fair and brown
Used to come rolly-polly down,
And show'd the'r legs to half the town;
Oh! the good old sights in Brummagem.

Down Peck Lane I walked alone
To find out Brummagem;
There was the *dungil*‡ down and gone!—
What, no rogues in Brummagem?
They've taken it to a street called *Moor*,
A sign that rogues they've got no fewer.
The rogues won't like to go there, I'm sure,
While Peck Lane's in Brummagem.

I remember one John Growse,
A buckle-maker in Brummagem:
He built himself a country house,
To be out of the smoke of Brummagem:
But though John's country house stands still,
The town itself has walked up hill,
Now he lives beside of a smoky mill,
In the middle of the streets of Brummagem.

Amongst the changes that abound
In good old Brummagem,

* The Moat.
† Sticklebacks—a phrase common in Warwickshire.
‡ The Dungeon.

May trade and happiness be found
In good old Brummagem;
And tho' no Newhall-hill we've got,
No Pudding Brook nor any *Mott*,
May we always have enough to boil the pot,
In good old Brummagem.

The season of 1829 opened on March 11, under the direction of Mr. Clarke. Mr. Liston, Mr. Vandenhoff, and Miss S. Booth were the principal attractions. In April the "veteran Dowton" appeared, and the Theatre closed before its usual time. It opened, however, again for a short season on the 21st of September, and among the performers engaged for the commencement were Mr. Harley, Mr. Warde, Miss Jarman, and Miss Lacy. "Our old and respected friend Bellamy, Manager of the Bath Theatre, heads the regular company;" and in October Mr. Macready performed nine of his finest characters.

It had now become the custom to have two seasons in the year at the Theatre; but there is very little to record for the year 1830. The great political excitement of the time seems to have had considerable influence on amusements, and very little attention is given in the *Gazette* to matters theatrical. Mr. Macready was, as usual, one of the stars of the year; and in the short season, which opened in September, we had Miss Fanny Kemble and her father, Mr. Charles Kemble, for six nights. Mr. Braham also appeared in October, and played for five nights.

In January, 1831, the theatre was taken by Mr. Watson, of the Cheltenham, Gloucester, and Warwick Theatres, and in March Mr. Kean appeared and played King Richard the Third, Shylock, Sir Giles Overreach, and Othello. Miss Smithson and Mr. Rayner appeared in May. In August the "very celebrated Mr. Kean" was again engaged, and repeated the same performances as on his previous engagement. Miss Phillips, Mr. Braham and Mr. Blanchard were here during this season, and the once famous Russian Horn Band.*

In 1830 our townsman, Mr. J. Dobbs, bade farewell to the stage. In 1831, for some unexplained cause, he failed in having a benefit at the Theatre, so he devised a new entertainment, which was thus announced:—

* A remarkable band of about twenty performers, each blowing only one note on a straight trumpet.

June 20, 1831.—J. Dobbs respectfully informs his friends and the public, that being prevented taking his Benefit at the Theatre, and Mr. Beardsworth having in the most liberal spirit granted him the use of the Repository, he is now fitting up that extensive and remarkable building for the occasion. It is intended to give to the interior the resemblance of an Illumninated Temple, in which the Arts, Poetry, Music, and Painting shall preside.

The Music will be selected from the works of the most celebrated Composers, performed by a superior Band. The Poetry will be found in the Songs, Glees, and Choruses. The Paintings will consist of extensive Panoramic Views from Nature; and also Historical Subjects, covering upwards of 2,000 feet of canvas, executed by eminent artists engaged for the occasion, from London. The Landscapes, by Mr. W. Beverley, whose Paintings have excited so much admiration in London and Manchester. The Historical Paintings, by Mr. Pugh, student of the Royal Academy. Thus the Entertainment (which will take place on Monday, July the 11th) will consist of a Grand Illumination. Scenic Views, Promenade, and a Vocal and Instrumental Concert.

J. D., grateful for past favours, and having an earnest of their continuance in the kind and gratuitous assistance of several of his friends to aid the above undertaking, pledges himself that the Entertainment, taken as a whole, shall equal anything of the kind ever witnessed in this part of the kingdom.

The Entertainment came off, was successful, and was repeated.

During this decade there were the usual public and private subscription Concerts at the Royal Hotel; the usual Panoramas, Musical Glasses, Exhibition of Wax Works, Dwarfs and Giants, Vauxhall Galas and Fire-works; for, whatever else may fail, amusements and attractions for sight-seers never fail; and Birmingham has always been especially well catered for in this respect.

§ 5. MANNER, CUSTOMS, ETC.

There are only a few quotations to be made illustrative of the manners and customs of this decade. They bear a monotonous resemblance to those of previous periods, and some of them afford examples of how hard it is to kill a once-established custom. For instance, "Cocking" was still publicly advertised:—

April 5, 1824.—A Main of Cocks will be fought between the Gentlemen of Warwickshire and the Gentlemen of Derbyshire, for £5 a Battle, and £200 the odd; to commence on Monday, the 18th of April, and continue the two following days.

Feeders—Hines for Warwickshire and Randall for Derbyshire.

Here is a strange paragraph to meet with. Was it really true that the collection on this occasion amounted to *nil*?—

May 17, 1824.—The Collections yesterday in aid of the Blue Coat Charity School, amounted at St. Martin's to £— —s. —d.; at St. Philip's, £— —s. —d. Total collected at the Churches and Chapels, £— —s. —d.

We still meet with advertisements of this kind :—

MATRIMONY.

July 19, 1825.—A Respectable Tradesman, 30 years of age, with a good income, is in want of a Wife. She must not exceed 20, and if only 18 would be preferred. His object being to marry one of pure heart and unaffected manners, the less intercourse she has had with the seniors of her own sex the better. No Lady residing in Birmingham or its environs need apply, the Advertiser having seen them all! He hopes no lady will let her diffidence prevent application, as the worse opinion she has of herself the more likely she is to please him. If one can be found who has a contempt of money, a fortune would not be objectionable, otherwise it would. Letters addressed (Post paid) to Selim, at the Printer's, will meet with respectful and honourable attention.

Nor has bull-baiting yet been altogether abolished :—

October 4, 1824.—Two more convictions for bull-baiting have recently taken place in this neighbourhood, under the "act to prevent cruel and improper treatment of cattle:" the first was in the case of W. Walker, of Wednesbury, carter, who was convicted in the full penalty of five pounds for baiting a bull at Wednesbury wake, and in default of payment he was committed to Stafford Goal for one month; the other was in the case of T. Turner, of the same place, labourer, who was convicted in the mitigated penalty of ten shillings and costs, for being concerned in the same offence.

October 13, 1828.—We have pleasure in stating that, by the praiseworthy exertion and activity of Mr. Haines, one of our constables, two men, named Henry Thomas and William Jones, were last week apprehended in the act of bull-baiting, near to Little Hockley Pool, and fined in the full penalty allowed by our local act. Mr. Haines stated to the Magistrates that, receiving information it was intended to bait one or more bulls at Handsworth wake, he proceeded to the above spot between seven and eight o'clock in the morning, where he found upwards of a thousand persons assembled, with a bull affixed to a stake; and the two prisoners taking a very active part, they were apprehended. Mr. Spooner convicted each of them, under the Town Improvement Act, in the penalty of five pounds, and, in default of payment, an immediate distress was ordered to be taken on their goods and chattels; and in the event of their being deficient to satisfy the order, the prisoners were to be committed to gaol for six weeks. We have little doubt the determined steps now taking will have the effect of preventing, within our own parish, the revival of a practice so brutal, and which we regret to learn is upon the increase in some parts of a neighbouring district. In the adjoining parish of Handsworth, it is stated that two or three bulls were baited in the course of Monday, surrounded by immense assemblages of persons, in uninterrupted enjoyment of the cruel sport.

This is not a bad example of the advertisement matrimonial :—

WANTED "FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE"—THE YOUNG MAN'S BEST COMPANION.

September 29, 1828.—The advertiser is a Widower in good business on his own account, and having no incumbrance or embarrassments, would be glad to obtain the above, if

published earlier than 1790, either at first or second-hand, provided it is in good binding, and has gilt edges, with the contents in good keeping.

Any Lady having such a treasure to dispose of will meet with a most devoted, attentive, secret reader, by addressing a line (post paid) B. C., at the Printers. This is one of the best arranged Matrimonial overtures which has for some time been offered.

This was the time of Burke and the Resurrectionists. Birmingham did not escape either the fear or the crime. The following advertisement testifies to the latter, and our remembrance of the horrible stories which we then had to listen to vouches for the former :—

BODY STOLEN.

December 29, 1828.—Whereas, on Wednesday night, or early in the Morning of Christmas day, the Body of an aged Female was stolen from a Grave in Edgbaston Churchyard. A reward of Ten Pounds will be paid for such information as may lead to the conviction of the offenders, on application to the Churchwardens.

The following advertisement for a housekeeper is evidently the production of an economical bachelor:—

TO RESPECTABLE FEMALES.

December 13, 1830.—Wanted as Housekeeper, by a single Gentleman, (who is not young and resides in Birmingham,) a respectable (not aged) Female, without incumbrance, who may have a small income, but not a competency. She will have the advantages of a quiet and comfortable life, and the opportunity of being instructed in the most useful branches of a liberal education. Application, by letter only, (post paid), with real name, stating residence and other particulars, to be made to C. A. M. E., at Mr. Abbot's Register Office, 49, New Street.

N.B.—Any Lady keeping a servant and preferring the social life to the solitary, may apply, and be sure not to be disappointed. The strictest secrecy of course will be kept.

THE REFORM AGITATION AND THE POLITICAL UNION.

Birmingham was now about to take that position in the kingdom to which the wealth, the industry, the intelligence, and the number of her inhabitants fully entitled her. During this decade the great Political Union was organised, and this great town became the centre of one of the most important and successful political agitations recorded in history. Literally the eyes of the kingdom were directed to Birmingham, and the labours of the leaders in that great movement were marked by a sense of their responsibility, which produced a wonderful effect upon the councils of the nation. With the motto of "Peace, Law, and Order" as the guiding principle of action, the Union

marched on step by step, until it obtained a victory almost unexampled in the annals of the country. The story of this battle of peace is full of interest to all thinking men, and the local annalist will be pardoned for dwelling somewhat minutely upon the details of a movement the triumph of which forms an epoch in the history of England.

George Edmonds was one of the men who were imprisoned for the part they took in the Newhall Hill meeting of 1819, and upon his release from jail he published the following curious advertisement :—

July 7, 1823.—George Edmonds begs to inform his *Friends*, his *Enemies*, and the *Public*, that, on leaving Warwick Jail, he recommenced his profession of a Schoolmaster; that by the zeal of his Patrons he has succeeded beyond his most sanguine expectations; that he has taken for a period of seven years those extensive premises opposite Bond-street Chapel; and that the school re-opened on Monday last.

The Public are respectfully referred by G. E. to his *Enemies*, as the Judges of his capacity to *instruct* and *correct*, or to those his friends who may be found among the Magistrates, Clergy, Ex-High Bailiffs, Guardians, Overseers, Lawyers, &c., &c., who will no doubt be glad to show their gratitude to an old acquaintance. To his *enemies*, if it be possible that he can have any, G. E. offers the most entire absolution for their sins against the *best of men*, on the following most reasonable terms :—That they henceforth zealously trumpet forth his merits ; and on his part *(how kind!)* he agrees to receive their children at his Academy as hostages for the performance of these conditions.—*Quid rides?*

Bond-street, July 2, 1823.

On July 14 a dinner was given to Henry Hunt by the "Birmingham Union Society of Radical Reformers." There was a procession through the streets, led by a band of music. The dinner was given at the Tennis Court, and the chair was occupied by Mr. Edmonds, and Messrs. Ragg, Russell, and Brands took part in the proceedings :—

In 1827, Mr. Tennyson introduced his motion to transfer the representation of East Redford to Birmingham, and a meeting was held in support of the proposal :—

REPRESENTATION OF BIRMINGHAM.

June 25, 1827.—The public meeting on Friday, convened by the High Bailiff, to take into consideration the bill introduced into the House of Commons, to enable this town to return Representatives to Parliament, was so numerously attended that numbers were unable to obtain admission to the Public Office, and an adjournment to some larger place became necessary. As soon, therefore, as the chair had been taken an adjournment was moved and carried. Considerable difficulty at first presented itself, in consequence of its being understood that the Repository belonging to Mr. Beardsworth could not, on account of the indispositon of some part of his family, be obtained; the meeting was

however at length relieved by an intimation that it might be had for the purpose, and those assembled forthwith adjourned there. Upon reaching the Repository, the High Bailiff and principal speakers took their stations in front of one of the galleries, and the proceedings immediately commenced. The first resolution was moved by Mr. Timothy Smith, who congratulated the meeting on the prospect which had unexpectedly been opened to it. He could not but rejoice at the mode which the legislature appeared disposed to adopt for extending the elective franchise to large commercial towns; it was most accordant with constitutional principles, and he trusted the meeting would be unanimous in petitioning that so valuable a privilege might be granted them; it was a boon calculated to confer most important benefits on the town, and he hoped it would not only be received with thankfulness, but also as a sacred trust to be exercised with the soundest discretion, and for the best interests of the country at large. The resolution was briefly seconded by Mr. Scholefield, and carried amidst loud cheers. In proposing the second and third resolutions, Mr. T. Attwood said, that as Parliament had held out the hand of favour to us, he hoped the town would be content to receive the boon which it appeared willing to give, and not lose the privilege itself by contending for minor points. If the elective franchise were conferred upon the town, he trusted that, under the sanction of the legislature, a system of election would be organised which would do credit to the place, and afford an example to other populous towns; for if the distribution of the privilege acted well in this first large town likely to receive it, it would establish a great principle with Parliament, and induce it to follow up the course it had begun, by calling in other towns to the exercise of the same constitutional privilege. He should be glad if the whole population were permitted to vote, and, if they could, be enabled, to record their votes in one day. The fourth resolution, expressing the reliance of the meeting on the wisdom of the legislature to make such regulations as would prevent expense and tumult at the elections, was proposed by Mr. Nicholls, who said that he felt no apprehension of tumult, for, notwithstanding his short residence in Birmingham, he had already met with too much good sense and solid principle to make him anticipate disorder on such an occasion. The petition, as usual an echo of the resolutions, was introduced and read to the meeting by Richard Spooner, Esq., who afterwards moved a vote of thanks to our worthy County Members, and in doing so, he passed a high and just eulogium on the zeal and ability with which they had ever acted in support of the best interests of the town. The thanks of the meeting were also voted to Mr. Tennyson for having selected Birmingham as the most proper place on which to confer the advantage of representation. In moving and seconding the remaining resolutions, several other gentlemen addressed the meeting. Thanks were then voted to the chairman, and the assembly broke up. The meeting having properly confined itself to a warm and unanimous expression of its willingness to accept whatever elective privilege the Legislature may see fit to confer upon the town, the question now remains for the future consideration of Parliament. The Petitions, which we understand in the course of Saturday received nearly four thousand signatures, have been forwarded to town for presentation.

The motion was lost; but it was renewed again in 1828; and on July 11, the *Gazette* published a verbatim copy of the Birmingham Election Bill, with the following comments :—

The Committee appointed at the town's meeting, in June last, to confer with Mr. Tennyson, the Honourable Member who so kindly volunteered his services on behalf of

the town, deserves our cordial thanks for taking this early opportunity of laying the bill before the inhabitants. It will be observed, that the Elective Franchise is proposed to be given to all householders residing within the Manor of Birmingham, (comprising the parish of Birmingham and the Hamlet of Deritend Proper, the boundaries of which are well known and defined,) who shall have been duly assessed in their own names to the poor rates and other local charges, and who shall have regularly paid the same, and resided within the manor three years prior to the writ of election; this rule does not, however, and cannot apply to the first election, respecting which there is a special provision. To the elective franchise thus conferred, little if any objection can be urged; for while every constitutional privilege is preserved, and the means by which each resident householder may be entitled to the privileges are within his power, the inconvenience of too great a number of voters is prevented by the necessity of three years' residence, and the due and regular payment of all parochial rates and charges. By far the most important view, however, that can be taken of the measure, is the relief which the town will experience in the reduction of the poor rates. Hundreds, who are now obtaining parish relief, will, by strenuous exertions, obtain and preserve the valuable privilege of the elective franchise, and will thus contribute to increase that fund which they are now diminishing. This will act in a double ratio, by decreasing the number of paupers and increasing the number of payers, and consquently materially reduce the amount to be paid by every individual householder in the town.

From the returns about to be made to the House of Commons, we understand that no more than three or four thousand persons will, at the utmost, be entitled to the right of voting, and that the election, from the great facilities which are to be given to voters at different booths, will not last longer than two days. The knowledge of this fact will give great satisfaction to many of the inhabitants who would naturally dread a prolonged and tumultuous election, and incline them to give their support to the measure.

An invitation was given in April, 1828, to Mr. Charles Tennyson, to attend a public dinner, but he was unable to accept it.

On April 8, 1829, a town's meeting was held, on the distressed state of the country.

Town's Meeting.—Distressed State of the Country.

May 11, 1829,—A Town's-Meeting was held on Friday last, pursuant to advertisement, at the Public-office, Birmingham, and by adjournment at Beardsworth's Repository, for the purpose of considering the propriety of petitioning Parliament on the present distressed state of the country.

The High Bailiff, on taking the chair, said, he hoped that good temper and orderly behaviour would characterise the proceedings of the day; and as it was possible that a diversity of opinion might exist, he trusted that every one who chose to address the meeting would meet with that fair and candid hearing which every individual, as an inhabitant of the town, had a right to expect.

Thomas Attwood, Esq., first addressed the meeting, observing:—"It is not often that I have obtruded myself on your attention, and I should not have done so now but for the overwhelming sense of duty which I feel to do all in my power to relieve the present distress, and to ward off that far greater distress which I much fear is approaching. I have

paid great attention to the causes of this distress for the last twenty years. I have paid a far greater attention to it than to any other public subject, considering that it was a question of the highest importance, in comparison with which Parliamentary Reform itself is inferior. Although a radical reformer, I want to see prosperity in the country, in order that we may have good ground under our feet, and then I will go hand in hand with my townsmen, if they please, in endeavouring to obtain a radical reform."

This meeting originated with Mr. Attwood, and a full report of his speech, "revised and corrected by himself," was published. On the 14th of December, 1829, "when (says Mr. James Jaffray) hundreds of the inhabitants were shivering by their cold firesides, Mr. Attwood, with Mr. Scholefield and fourteen other gentlemen, met at the Royal Hotel. They were called together by a circular, 'signed by six tradesmen.' This little meeting then founded 'The Political Union for the Protection of Public Rights.' They adjourned till the Monday following, when they met at the Globe (now the Clarendon), Temple Street. Mr. Attwood again presided; and he, in conjunction with Mr. Charles Jones and Mr. T. C. Salt, submitted the rules of the Union. They were adopted and signed by twenty-eight persons; and it was resolved that they should be submitted for the approbation of the people."*

The newly-organised Union at once commenced to act upon public opinion. A requisition was drawn up, signed by over 200 of the inhabitants, and presented to Mr. William Chance, the High Bailiff of the year. The following is a copy of this requisition, to which the *Gazette* makes this reference :—

January 18, 1830.—A requisition appears in our paper of this day, calling upon the High Bailiff to convene a meeting of the inhabitants of the town for the purpose of forming "a General Political Union between the lower and middle classes of the people," for the promotion of "an effectual Reform in Parliament, and the redress of public wrongs and grievances." The High Bailiff has declined complying with the request, considering it to be no part of his duty to call a meeting of the inhabitants for such a purpose; and in his opinion we are satisfied he carries with him the great majority of the respectable and reflecting part of his fellow townsmen. In consequence of this refusal, the original projectors of the plan have associated others of the requisitionists with them, and have themselves convened the meeting for Monday next, at Mr. Beardsworth's Repository. We understand that the proposed "Union" is intended to be governed by a "political council," and that the machinery and means of support are to be assimilated to the late Catholic Association. That its chief object is the extension of the well-known views and opinions of the gentleman whose name appears at the head of the requisition there can be no doubt.

* Hints for a History of Birmingham. By James Jaffray. 1857.

Birmingham, January 5, 1830.

To the High Bailiff of the Town of Birmingham.

Sir—We, the undersigned, being of opinion that the General Distress which now afflicts the country, and which has been so severely felt at several periods during the last fifteen years, is entirely to be ascribed to the gross mismanagement of public affairs, and that such mismanagement can only be effectually and permanently remedied by an effectual reform in the Commons House of Parliament; and being also of opinion that, for the legal accomplishment of this great object, and for the further redress of public wrongs and grievances, it is expedient to form a General Political Union between the lower and middle classes of the people, do request that you will call a Meeting of the Merchants, Manufacturers, Tradesmen, Mechanics, Artisans, and other Inhabitants of the town of Birmingham, for the purpose of taking these important subjects into consideration, and of adopting such further measures as, under the present circumstances of the country, may be deemed expedient :—

Thomas Attwood	Shomas Shorthouse
Joshua Scholefield	Samuel Badger, jun.
G. F. Muntz	Thomas Chambers
John Betts	Thomas Hughes

The reply of the High Bailiff and the notice of the promoters of the Union calling the meeting were published under each other, on January 18 :—

To the Gentlemen who signed the Requisition to the High Bailiff.

January 18, 1830.—I regret that I should feel it necessary to refuse the request of any of my respectable townsmen, but one of the objects contemplated by the requisitionists being the formation of a General Political Union, I cannot view it as any part of my duty to call a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the town for a purpose of this kind.

William Chance, High Bailiff.

Town's Meeting.

Birmingham, January 14, 1830.—The High Bailiff having refused to call a Meeting pursuant to the above Requisition, we, the undersigned, do hereby request a Meeting of the Merchants, Manufacturers, Tradesmen, Mechanics, Artisans, and other Inhabitants of the town of Birmingham, to be held at Mr. Beardsworth's Repository, on Monday, the 25th instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, for the purpose contemplated in the above Requisition :—

Thomas Attwood	Charles Grafton
Joshua Scholefield	John Betts
G. F. Muntz	Edward Hobson
William Shorthouse	John Lawrence
John Slater	Charles Jones
William Martin	Benjamin Hadley

The meeting was held; and on the 25th of January, 1830, some 15,000 persons assembled in Beardsworth's Repository. Mr. G. F. Muntz was in the Chair, and Mr. Attwood explained the purposes and

objects for which the Union had been formed. The following is a summary of them :—

1st. To obtain by every just and legal means such a Reform in the Commons House of Parliament as may ensure a real and effectual Representation of the Lower and Middle Classes of the People in the House.

2nd. To enquire, consult, consider, and determine respecting the rights and liberties of the industrious classes, and respecting the legal means of securing those which remain, and recovering those which are lost.

3rd. To prepare petitions, addresses and remonstrances to the Crown and the Legislative Bodies, respecting the preservation and restoration of Public Rights, and respecting the repeal of bad laws and the enactment of good laws.

4th. To prevent and redress as far as practicable all Local Public Wrongs and Oppressions, and all Local Encroachments upon the rights, interests, and privileges of the community.

5th. To obtain the repeal of the Malt and the Beer Taxes; and in general to obtain an alteration in the system of taxation, so as to cause it to press less severely upon the industrious classes of the community, and more equally upon the wealthy classes.

6th. To obtain the reduction of each separate Tax and expense of the Government in the same degree as the legislative increase in the value of money has increased their respective values, and has reduced and is reducing the general prices of labour throughout the country.

7th. To promote peace, union and concord among all classes of his Majesty's subjects; and to guide and direct the public mind into uniform, peaceful and legitimate operations, instead of leaving it to waste its strength in loose, desultory, unguided, unassisted, and uncontrolled efforts.

8th. To collect and organise the peaceful expression of the Public Opinion, so as to bring it to act upon the legislative functions in a just, legal, and effectual way.

9th. To influence, by every legal means, the elections of members of Parliament, so as to promote the return of upright and capable Representatives of the People.

10th. To adopt such measures as may be legal and necessary for the purpose of obtaining an effectual Parliamentary investigation into the situation of the country, and into the cause of its embarrassment and difficulties; with a view of relieving the National Distress, of rendering justice to the injured as far as practicable, and to bring to trial any Members of either House of Parliament who may be found to have acted from criminal or corrupt motives.

The duties of the members were :—

1st. To be good, faithful, and loyal subjects of the King.

2nd. To obey the Laws of the Land; and where they cease to protect the Rights, Liberties, and Interests of the Community, to endeavour to get them changed by just, legal, and peaceful means only.

3rd. To present themselves at all general meetings of the Political Union as far as they conveniently can; to conduct themselves peaceably and legally at such meetings, and to depart to their respective homes as soon as the chairman shall leave the chair.

4th. To choose only just, upright and able men as Members of the Political Council, and to dismiss them, and to elect others in their stead, whenever they shall cease to watch over and defend the Rights, Liberties, and Interests of the Lower and Middle Classes of the People.

5th. To obey strictly all the just and legal directions of the Political Council so soon as they shall be made public, and so far as they can legally and conveniently be obeyed.

6th. To bear in mind that the strength of our society consists in the Peace, Order, Unity, and Legality of our proceedings; and to consider all persons as enemies who shall in any way invite or promote violence, discord, or division, or any illegal or doubtful measures.

7th. Never to forget that by the exercise of the above qualities we shall produce the peaceful display of an immense organised moral power, which cannot be despised or disregarded; but that if we do not keep clear of the innumerable and intricate laws which surround us, the lawyer and the soldier will probably break in upon us and render all our exertions vain.

The following are the names of the thirty-six gentlemen who first signed the Declaration of the Union :—

Thomas Attwood	Matthew Dixon	James Claridge
Joshua Scholefield	Joseph Boddington	T. W. Evans
G. F. Muntz	Henry Knight	William Beach
Edward Hobson	John Tyer	T. B. Oram
John Lawrence	William Pare	John Allday
Charles Jones	Joseph Hadley	Samuel Allen, sen.
John Slater	Joseph Russell	Robert Cottrill
Benjamin Hadley	Urban Luckcock	William Birken
Thomas Todd	Thomas Shorthouse	D. B. Smith
Felix Luckcock	George Edmonds	John Winkfield
John Betts	Josiah Eames	T. C. Salt
Charles Grafton	C. W. Firchild	Thomas Parsons, jun.

The following is the official report of the meeting :—

BIRMINGHAM TOWN'S MEETING.

February 1, 1830.—At a most numerous and respectable Meeting of the Merchants, Manufacturers, Tradesmen, Mechanics, Artisans, and other Inhabitants of the town of Birmingham, held at Mr. Beardsworth's Repository, on Monday morning, the 25th of January, 1830, the following Resolutions were entered into. George Frederick Muntz, Esq., in the Chair.

Resolved unanimously,—

1.—That the ruinous depression of the trade of the town of Birmingham has been progressively increasing for the last four years, and has now arrived at an extent never before equalled; and when we look around us, and see that all the great productive

interests of the nation are suffering, and have been suffering equally with ourselves, we are convinced that the hopes of amelioration, which have been so long and so frequently held out, are altogether fallacious and delusive.

Resolved by a majority of at least one thousand and one,—

2.—That in the opinion of this Meeting, the general distress which now afflicts the country, and which has been so severely felt at different periods during the last fifteen years, is entirely to be ascribed to the gross mismanagement of public affairs; and that such mismanagement can only be effectually and permanently remedied by an effectual Reform in the Commons House of Parliament; and this meeting is also of opinion that for the legal accomplishment of this great object, and for the further redress of public wrongs and grievances it is expedient to form a general Political Union between the lower and middle classes of the people of this town.

The plan of a Political Union between the lower and middle classes of the people in this town, for the protection of public rights, with a Political Council attached to it, having been read to this Meeting, and the same having been duly considered—

Resolved, with one dissentient only,—

3.—That it be approved, adopted, ratified, and confirmed as the act of the town of Birmingham.

Resolved unanimously—

4.—That the thirty-six Gentlemen who have brought forward the plan, and whose names are affixed to it, be appointed the Political Council for the year ending the first Monday in July, 1830, and that after that day, the Council shall be elected by the members of the Union, agreeably to the rules and regulations.

5.—That Mr. William Shorthouse and Mr. William Martin be appointed Auditors of the Political Union.

6.—That Mr. Richard Rotton be appointed Treasurer.

7.—That this Meeting pledges itself, collectively and individually, to support the objects of the Political Union, by every just, legal, and peaceful means.

8.—That we recommend to all our fellow townsmen to subscribe to the funds of the Political Union, so far as they can conveniently afford, and to obey all the just and legal directions of the Council, so far as they can be legally and conveniently obeyed.

9.—That this Meeting cannot separate without declaring its opinion that the conduct of the High Bailiff, in rejecting the requisition of so respectable a body of his fellow townsmen, was highly unbecoming and censurable, inasmuch, as he ought to have considered that it was his duty to comply with the wishes of two hundred individuals, equally capable of exercising a sound judgment as himself.

10.—That the Petition now read to this Meeting be adopted, as the petition of the inhabitants of Birmingham, subject to such alterations as the Political Council may direct.

11.—That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be given to Mr. Beardsworth, for his generous and public-spirited conduct in allowing them the use of his warm and comfortable repository.

G. F. Muntz, Chairman.

Mr. Muntz having left the Chair, and Mr. Attwood having been called to it—Resolved by acclamation,—That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman, for the able and impartial manner in which he has conducted the business of the day.

THOMAS ATTWOOD.

Another great and enthusiastic Meeting was held on the 17th of May :—

May 24, 1830.—Pursuant to orders issued by "the Council," the members of the Political Union assembled in St. Philip's Churchyard at an early hour on Monday morning last, and, decorated with medals and preceded by a band of music, they walked in procession to Mr. Beardsworth's Repository, headed by Mr. Attwood, Mr. Scholefield, and Mr. Muntz. As every effort had been made to effect the greatest possible display, an immense number of persons collected in the streets through which the procession passed, and on its arrival every corner of Mr. Beardsworth's spacious premises was speedily occupied, numbers unable to obtain admission remaining on the outside. The chair was taken by Mr. Muntz, and the passing of the report and resolutions, accompanied by speeches from the prominent members of the council, was followed by the presentation and investment of Mr. Attwood with a gold medal. The proceedings terminated about four o'clock, and the crowd quietly separated. It is computed that at one time considerably above twenty thousand persons were congregated in, and around, Mr. Beardsworth's building.

At this meeting the medal to be worn by the members of the Union was approved. It was resolved :—

"That the following medal be adopted as the badge of the Union attached to a ribbon, on which is enterwoven the red cross of St. George, quartered by that of St. Andrew, commonly called the Union Jack ; a standard that has nobly supported the national honour in foreign climes, and which, we trust, will be efficacious in the great moral contest for recovering the national liberty at home.

"Obverse of the medal—the British lion rousing himself from slumber ; legend above, 'The safety of the King and of the People'; legend below, 'The Constitution, nothing less, nothing more.' Reverse of the medal—the Royal crown of England, irradiated ; immediately beneath the crown, on a scroll, the words 'Unity, Liberty, Prosperity'; legend above, 'God save the King' ; legend below, 'Birmingham Political Union, 25th January, 1830."

In July Sir Francis Burdett visited the town and was entertained at a public dinner :—

August 2, 1830.—Sir Francis Burdett presided at a meeting of the "Birmingham Political Union," held at Mr. Beardsworth's Repository, on Monday last, and afterwards partook of a dinner provided at the Royal Hotel, Mr. Attwood in the chair. The meeting was attended by an immense number of persons ; but the proceedings, with the exception of the presentation of some plate to Mr. Beardsworth, possessed as little of novelty as of interest.

This was the year of the "three glorious days of July," at Paris, which produced a successful revolution in that country, and once more,

and for ever, banished the Bourbons from a land which they had so fearfully misruled. The events of that exciting period were watched with feverish interest by the people of this country, and by none with deeper sympathy than by the inhabitants of Birmingham. A town's meeting was held on the subject, of which we have this report :—

TOWN'S MEETING.

August 16, 1830.—The public meeting, convened pursuant to requisition by the High Bailiff, "For the purpose of expressing the sense of the inhabitants on the recent events in France," was held at the Royal Hotel, on Wednesday. For some time after the hour fixed upon for the chair to be taken, very few persons had assembled, for when the proceedings had commenced, the requisitionists, and those who joined them in the orchestra, were little short in point of numbers of those in the body of the room. The numbers, however, gradually increased, until the room became about one-third filled. The requisition having been read by the High Bailiff, the first resolution was moved by the Rev. John Corrie and seconded by Richard Spooner, Esq. Mr. Edmonds then rose, and moved the adjournment of the meeting, on account of the short notice given of its assembling, and of the few persons attending, which was seconded by Mr. B. Hadley, and had the motion been immediately put, it would no doubt have been carried. Mr. Spooner and Mr. Corrie strongly resisted the amendment, and other gentlemen explained the circumstances under which they had thought it advisable to hold an immediate meeting. Mr. Thomas Attwood, who entered the room after the first resolution had been proposed, begged that the whole of the intended resolutions might be read ; he then commented upon them, and suggested that, instead of adjourning, a committee should be appointed to revise and strengthen the resolutions. This recommendation did not, however, meet the views of the mover of the amendment, who persisted in his motion, and a long and contentious discussion arose, in the course of which the Rev. John Corrie made a warm and animated appeal to those present, representing in forcible language the disadvantageous position in which the town would be placed, were the meeting to adjourn without coming to any decision. The appeal of the Rev. Gentleman made evident impression on the meeting, and changed the aspect of affairs. On the chairman proceeding to put the amendment to the meeting, Mr. Edmonds again rose. The High Bailiff observed that he had already replied, and refused again to hear him. A warm altercation then took place, the majority evidently showing their disposition to support the chairman. The contention was at length put an end to by Mr. Scholefield moving that a committee, consisting of the Rev. J. Corrie, Mr. R. Spooner, Mr. E. T. Moore, Mr. Parkes, Mr. Attwood, and Mr. Edmonds, should retire, and endeavour to make such alteration as should meet the wishes of all parties. The motion was then put and carried almost unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned for an hour.

On the High Bailiff again resuming the chair, the Rev. J. Corrie stated that the resolutions which would then be submitted, had been unanimously approved by the committee appointed by the meeting, and he trusted they would pass unanimously ; he concluded by moving the first resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Spooner. On its being again read from the chair, a new source of desention arose in an endeavour to introduce a clause relating to Parliamentary reform by Mr. Russell and Mr. C. Jones. The attempt was warmly resisted by the originators of the meeting, who contended that the resolutions ought not to undergo alteration after having been agreed to by the

committee. The opposing party notwithstanding persisted, and it was at length agreed that the amendment should be put to the meeting in the form of an additional resolution. The second and third resolutions were then moved and carried; and Mr. Muntz was heard in support of the next in succession. Precedence was however claimed for the new resolution, which had in the meantime been prepared by Mr. Attwood, and being yielded it was handed to the chairman. Strenuous efforts were then made to oppose its introduction by those who advocated the original resolutions, but the mover and seconder being joined by Mr. Spooner and Mr. Attwood, they prevailed, and the resolution was put and carried by a very large majority. A committee was then appointed to carry the resolutions into effect, and to superintend and remit the subscriptions to France.

The following records a curious little episode in the history of this agitation :—

October 4, 1830.—The Address to the King got up by the "Political Council," in this town, has been presented to his Majesty. A correspondence between Mr. Attwood, Sir Herbert Taylor, and Sir Robert Peel, on the subject of its presentation has been published: from which it appears that Mr. Attwood, as Chairman of the meeting at which it was voted, addressed Sir Herbert Taylor, expressing a desire that it might be presented to his Majesty personally by a deputation, "as the inhabitants of Birminghom consider the address as very important," and they thought it "their duty to take especial care that it was safely delivered into his Majesty's own hands." To this communication Sir Herbert replied, that his Majesty could not personally receive the Address by deputation; and Mr. Attwood was referred to the usual channel, the Office of the Home Secretary. Mr. Attwood, Mr. Scholefield, and Mr. Charles Jones, accordingly waited upon Sir Robert Peel, at Drayton, on Saturday se'nnight, and the Hon. Baronet promised to present it at the earliest opportunity. On Thursday last, Sir Robert replied as follows to Mr. Attwood :—"Whitehall, Sept. 29.—Sir,—I beg leave to acquaint you, that I have laid before the King the Address which you placed in my hands for that purpose, entitled, 'The Address of the inhabitants of the town of Birmingham in town's meeting assembled.'

"(Signed). R. PEEL."

The French Revolution was also celebrated by a dinner :—

October 18, 1830.—The "Political Union" Dinner to celebrate the French Revolution, took place at Mr. Beardsworth's Repository, Birmingham, on Monday. Tables were constructed over the entire area and along the galleries around this extensive establishment; and it is stated that upwards of three thousand six hundred persons partook of the fare provided for them. The dinner was cold, and the allowance of ale was restricted to a pint at, and a quart after dinner, to each individual. A band of music was in attendance, and flags, bearing on one side the French Tri-colour, and on the other the Union Jack, denoted the stations of the Stewards. The company were admitted by ticket shortly before one. "The Council" and stewards having previously taken their posts. Mr. Attwood presided, as President of the "Union," supported by Mr. Muntz, and Messrs. Edmonds and Hadley, members of the "Council;" and by them the speeches on the occasion were made, and the toasts previously arranged aad relating chiefly to the avowed object of the meeting, were given. Mr. Attwood's health was proposed by Mr. Beardsworth, and, of course, received with loud acclamation. After returning thanks, Mr. Attwood gave the last toast, which he prefaced by strongly urging all present to retire to their respective homes. The assembly immediately afterwards began quietly to separate.

In October, the Union petitioned the King to dismiss his Ministry. In a few weeks after the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel resigned, and the Grey administration was formed. A Meeting of the Union was held at Beardsworth's Repository, on December 13, in support of the new Cabinet. A petition was adopted which "claimed the following as the 'birthright of every Englishman :'"—

1st.—The right of having all *placemen* dismissed from the House of Commons, agreeably to the Great CONSTITUTIONAL ACT of Settlement, which placed the present illustrious Family on the Throne.

2nd.—The right of having *triennial or more frequent Parliaments*, as recognised and secured by the Great Constitutional Act—the 6th of William and Mary, cap. 2.

3rd.—The right of sitting and voting in the Commons House of Parliament, *when lawfully chosen, without the qualification of property*, which was fixed unconstitutionally by the Act of 9th Queen Anne.

4th.—The right of having all the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses of the House of Commons paid the *reasonable wages of attendance*, by a rate upon the constituents, in order to enable the common people to have the benefit of the services of persons living under the same circumstances, and having the same knowledge, and the same wants and interests as themselves.

5th.—The right of having the large towns and populous districts of the country represented in the House of Commons, in place of those decayed boroughs which return members to Parliament, although now containing but few inhabitants.

6th.—The right of every man to have a vote in the election of Members of the House of Commons, who is in any way called upon to contribute to either National or Local taxation, direct or indirect, by which your petitioners understand that either all the taxes ought to be taken off from those articles necessary for the subsistence of working men, or that all working men who are compelled to pay such taxes, should have a vote in the election of members to your Honourable House.

7th.—The right to have elections for Members of the House of Commons *free* and *unbiassed*, and with this view to have such arrangements made in the conducting of elections as may effectually prevent all force, fear, or intimidation, and all bribery or undue influence of any kind from acting upon the minds of the electors.

The political excitement continued to increase, and the year 1831 opened with a visit from "Orator Hunt":—

January 10, 1831.—On Monday last the radical Member for Preston was met on the Wolverhampton Road, and escorted into this town by a motley procession under the superintendence of Messrs. Russell and Edmonds, and other less distinguished members of the "Union." On reaching the edge of the town, Mr. Hunt was formally introduced to the crowd by Mr. Edmonds, and he forthwith proceeded to assure them of the wonderful deeds he had resolved to accomplish on taking his seat. Having harangued them until nearly dusk, the procession took its way into the town, towards the Globe

Tavern. Although every effort had been made to give eclat to the scene, and the band and banners of the Union had been engaged for the occasion, all well nigh amounted to a failure. The atmosphere of the streets through which the cortege passed proved unfavourable to a due reception of the idol of the day; and although the leaders exerted themselves to the utmost, and the youths by whom the banners were borne strained their throats to the highet pitch, the cheers were very faintly responded to, and the whole was flat and spiritless. On reaching the Globe, Mr. Hunt, contrary to general expectation, retired without even thanking the populace for their attendance. On the following day, it is stated, he had a long conference with the Chairman, and in the evening was present and made a long speech at a meeting of the "Political Council." On Wednesday the "Hon. Member" partook of a dinner provided at a public house in Warstone Lane, at which Mr. Weston presided and Mr. Salt acted as Vice-President; and on Friday, accompanied by his friends, Edmonds and Mitchell, he proceeded towards Coventry, where his arrival was said to be anxiously looked for.

This was followed by the celebration of the anniversary of the Political Union :—

January 31, 1831.—The anniversary of the formation of the Political Union, we understand, was celebrated on Tuesday, by dinners at various taverns and public houses. At the Globe about sixty members dined, Mr. Thomas Attwood presiding, and Mr. Muntz and Mr. B. Hadley officiating as Vice-Chairmen. In the course of his remarks from the chair, Mr. Attwood is stated to have said that the Union "had now registered in their books about nine thousand members. paying from four shillings to two guineas per annum; and that considering the influence which these 9,000 men exercised over the whole population of the town, containing 150,000 souls, and that nearly equal influence which they exercised over the inhabitants of the populous manufacturing towns and districts around them, containing also from 2 to 300,000 inhabitants more, the importance of the Union, considered in this light, as influencing a dense population of 400,000 souls, was far too great to be disregarded. The Union, he added, had condensed the moral power of this great population, and gathered it, as it were, into an electrical mass, which was powerful to every good purpose and utterly impotent to every bad one. Suppose, for instance, their good King should meet difficulties in his path from the pertinacity of the oligarchy; suppose they should refuse to obey the laws, and should make fight upon the occasion; why, the very moment the King commanded them, they would produce a national guard that would be like a wall of fire around his throne—(cheers). It was not too much to say, that if the King required it, they could produce him, in this district, at his orders, within a month, two armies, each of them as numerous and as brave as that which conquered at Waterloo."

In February, a petition from those of the inhabitants who did not generally co-operate with the Union was adopted, signed, and presented to Parliament on the subject of the representation of the county :—

February 7, 1831.—A petition, praying for some amendment in the state of the Representation of the country, is now in course of signature in this town. It is entitled the Petition of the Magistrates, Clergy, High and Low Bailiff, Bankers, Merchants, Manufacturers, and other inhabitants, and it has already received a number of most

respectable signatures. The petitioners express "the deep interest they feel in the important subject of an amended representation of the people in Parliament, and of their conviction that this great measure will effectually promote the welfare and stability of the British Empire, provided it be accompanied by such regulations as shall secure to the character, intelligence, and property of the country, their influence in the British Legislature." And they add, that actuated by these sentiments, "they respectfully, but earnestly entreat that effect may be given to their wishes in such manner as is consistent with an inviolable preservation of that relative influence of the three estates of the realm which forms the basis of the British Constitution." It is intended that the Petitions shall be deposited for the next few days at the several Banks of the town, the News Room, Newspaper Offices, &c., and they will no doubt immediately receive a very considerable number of names.

Another attempt was made this session to give Birmingham a representative by disfranchising another borough :—

February 21, 1831.—In the House of Commons, on Friday, the Marquis of Chandos introduced a bill to Disfranchise the Borough of Evesham, and to transfer the right of election to this town, which was read a first time. The noble Marquis followed up this proceeding by moving that the second reading be fixed for Monday next, the 28th inst., the day preceding the development of the government plan of reform, and that witnesses in support of the bill be summoned for that day. This proposition gave rise to an animated discussion, and the motion was strenuously resisted by several members, as an attempt to interfere with and embarrass the general question; and eventually it was determined that the second reading should be deferred until Monday, the 7th of next month. In the mean time the bill is to be printed, and copies are to be served upon the Returning Officer of Evesham, and upon the High Bailiff of Birmingham.

Another Town's Meeting was held on March 11, for "the purpose of expressing satisfaction at the ministerial measures of reform;" at which resolutions were passed, and a petition adopted.

The second reading of the Reform Bill was carried in March, by a majority of 22; the news reached Birmingham just at a time a meeting of the Grammar School Reformers was being held; and the following characteristic scene took place :—

March 28, 1831.—Prior to the termination of the proceedings, the news of the Reform Bill having passed its second reading was conveyed to the meeting, and was received with long and continued cheering. So exuberant indeed was the feeling of those who remained, that at the close, Mr. T. W. Hill, of Edgbaston, was called to the Chair, and it was resolved, that the event should be celebrated by a general illumination, on the next evening. Placards to this effect speedily made their appearance on the walls, and some of the inhabitants commenced making preparations early on the following morning. Others, however, objecting to the proceedings, the public authorities were applied to, and in the course of the afternoon a notice was issued by the Constables, under the sanction of the magistrates, which affording assurance of protection to those who declined compliance with the resolve of the meeting, the lighting up was in consequence but partial. Crowds

of persons thronged the principal streets for several hours, but the most peaceful conduct was observed, and soon after eleven o'clock the lights had all disappeared. In the course of Wednesday a request, signed by a number of the subscribers to the News Room, was made to the Wardens of St. Martin and St. Philip's to allow the bells to be rung on the occasion, but those gentlemen declined to interfere, and the bells of both churches remained silent.

It was now proposed to recognise the great services rendered by Mr. George Edmonds to the cause of Reform.

April 25, 1831.—At a Meeting of the Friends of Mr. Edmonds, held at the Globe Tavern, Temple Street, Mr. John Betts in the Chair;

It was resolved unanimously, on the motion of the Rev. T. M. M'Donnell,—That Mr. George Edmonds, by his superior talents, by the tried integrity, the intrepid spirit, and the persevering industry with which he has for a long series of years devoted himself to the great cause of public liberty, and more especially to the rights, privileges, and welfare of his fellow townsmen, has established a just claim to their approbation and esteem.

The undersigned therefore invite the inhabitants of Birmingham generally to co-operate with them in an endeavour to manifest these sentiments, by presenting Mr. George Edmonds with some memorial of their esteem.

Joshua Scholefield, Esq.	William Jennings	Samuel Haycock
Thomas Attwood, Esq.	Benjamin Hadley	John Giles
George Attwood, Esq.	Joseph Davies	William Weston
Rev. T. M. M'Donnell	T. C. Salt	Thomas Shorthouse
Samuel Morris	John Bourn	Robert Percy
S. A. Goddard	Samuel Burrell	Josiah Eames
John Betts	John Pierce	William Pare

Resolved that Thomas Attwood, Esq., be appointed Treasurer, and that all Subscriptions of £1 or upwards be paid into the banking-house of Messrs. Spooner, Attwoods, and Co.

In a future advertisement persons will be appointed to receive the smaller subscriptions.

Birmingham, April 23, 1831.

On the defeat of the Reform Bill by the passing of General Gascoyne's motion, the ministers tendered their resignation, which the King declined to accept. Parliament was prorogued on April 22, and dissolved on the following day. In nearly all the large towns Reform candidates were returned. Birmingham had no member, but her influence over public opinion in the country was very great. The following quotation will show the state of feeling in the town at this time. In reading the passage, it must be borne in mind that the *Gazette* was an opposition paper :—

May 9, 1831.—During the whole of Monday and Monday night last, this town was kept in a greater state of excitement than we recollect to have observed for some years past. The "Political Council" had convened a meeting of the Union and others who

might choose to attend, at Beardsworth's Repository, for the purpose, it was stated, of addressing his Majesty, thanking him for dissolving parliament; and to render due honour to the day, a body of officious persons, assembled on the preceding Thursday, wisely resolved that it was expedient a general illumination should take place on the occasion, and that the bells of the parish churches should ring in celebration of the event. Accordingly, in the course of the morning, a person by the name of Winfield, who said he was deputed from the meeting referred to, waited on the Rector, the Rev. Thomas Moseley, at St. Martin's Church, and made a request that the bells should be rung. The Rector declined acceding to the application, and the individual left the church, taking care, it would appear, to inform the bystanders that Mr. Moseley had refused the required permission. The consequence was that a crowd waited Mr. Moseley's return, and as soon as he made his appearance he was assailed with every possible opprobrious epithet, and eventually followed through the streets, to his own residence, nearly a mile distant, by a mob of the lowest description, who continued to insult him by every indecency of language and to assail him with mud and filth during the whole of the way. Happily the Rev. Gentleman sustained but little personal injury, although he was several times struck with stones. Two respectable persons, who joined Mr. Moseley with a view to protect him from more serious attack, shared in the abuse and filth directed against him. This brutal and disgraceful conduct excited general indignation, and a meeting has since been held, to express the sense of the respectable part of the inhabitants at the outrage offered him. The active perpetrators, we believe, are at present unknown, though we trust the efforts making for their discovery will prove successful, and that they may be brought to punishment.

Soon after two in the afternoon, preceded by a large assembly of idlers, men, women, and children, accompanied by bands of music, and bearing flags and banners, the members of the "Union" paraded through the streets to the place of meeting, headed by Mr. Thomas Attwood, and his brethern of the "Council." While the proceedings were going forward, a portion of the crowd, which accompianed the procession, returned to St. Martin's Church, and a ladder being procured, the belfry was forcibly entered by some of the ringers and others, and the first peal was hailed with loud shouts of triumph from those assembled. Information was immediately conveyed to the Magistrates, who were sitting at the Public Office; but after some consideration they declined to interfere, and the ringers were allowed to proceed unmolested. In the mean time preparations were made to effect a similar entrance to the belfry of St. Philip's Church, which was at length accomplished without obstruction, and the bells of both churches afterwards continued to ring until late at night. Proceedings, we understand, will certainly be taken against the parties who thus illegally forced an entrance into the churches in defiance of the Rectors and Wardens.

In the course of the morning a numerous requisition was signed by some of the most respectable inhabitants, stating their apprehension of disturbance, and calling upon the Magistrates to provide such a constabulary force, and to take such other measures as were necessary for the protection of those who should decline to illuminate, and for the preservation of the public peace. A notice was speedily issued by the Constable with a view of giving confidence to those who might refuse to light up. What further steps were taken we know not, but whatever they might have been, they appeared insufficient for the purpose, as many persons who were greatly indisposed to illuminate, felt themselves compelled to exhibit lights, in order to ensure protection to their windows and property. In consequence,

with comparatively few exceptions most of the houses in the centre of the town put up lights; but the sorry display they made exhibited, as strikingly as anything possibly could do, the motive under which they acted. Although, therefore, the illumination was of an exceedingly poor description, the streets at an early hour in the evening were much crowded, but soon after nine o'clock the rain fell in torrents and continued until most of the lights had been extinguished. About midnight the public houses became emptied, and a number of persons began to congregate in various parts of the town; fortunately, however, they were induced to separate without doing any mischief of consequence.

The new Parliament assembled on June 14, and on the 24th the Reform Bill was again introduced. On July 7, the second reading was carried by 367 against 231. On July 4, another meeting of the Union was held, and a petition in favour of the Reform Bill was adopted. This was presented to the House of Commons on August 2, when the following scene took place :—

Mr. O'Connell proceeded to read a petition from the "Council" of the Birmingham Political Union, setting forth "that the petitioners had observed with disgust and indignation the factious and puerile opposition made to a majority of that Honourable House, and to the demands of an oppressed and insulted people; and with feelings of a nearly similar character, they contrasted the rapidity with which measures of penalty and of spoliation had been enacted by former Parliaments, with the extraordinary tardiness at present displayed in completing a wholesome and healing measure of wisdom, justice, and conciliation." The Petitioners therefore felt it their duty to urge upon the house "the absolute necessity of no longer permitting the bill of reform to be retarded in its progress, and the sufferings of an oppressed and patient people prolonged, by obstinate and factious opposition made by a small and interested minority." Sir C. Forbes said, "a petition so worded was not presentable to the House." The speaker interposed, observing that the learned member (Mr. O'Connell) he presumed, did not intend himself to present a petition "so grossly disrespectful, and so directly tending to violate the privileges of Parliament."

[Here the proceedings were interrupted by the arrival of the Black Rod to summon the House to the Lords.]

On the Speaker's return, Mr. O'Connell said he introduced the petition in order that he might obtain the opinion of the Chair upon it. The Speaker replied that he was clearly of opinion it was one which the House could not receive, because it referred directly to proceedings in that House, and also to the manner in which those proceedings were conducted, which ought to be left perfectly free to the House itself, without any restraint being placed upon it from without. Mr. O'Connell then withdrew the petition. Sir R. Vyvyan wished to address the House in a few words referring to it, but the Speaker decided the petition having been withdrawn, that there was no question before the House, the Hon. Bart. therefore desisted, and the conversation ceased.

The Reform Bill passed the Commons on August 19, by a majority of 109; the numbers being 345 for, and 236 against. The rejoicings in

Birmingham were of the most enthusiastic kind. Addresses were voted to Earl Grey, Lords Althorpe and Russell. The latter Reformer made the following remarkable and memorable reply "I beg to acknowledge, with heart-felt gratitude, the undeserved honour done me by 150,000 of my countrymen. Our prospects are now obscured for a moment, and I trust only for a moment. *It is impossible that the whisper of faction should prevail against the voice of the nation.*"

The second reading of the Bill in the House of Lords was fixed for the 3rd of October; and on the same day a monster gathering assembled at Newhall Hill "to demonstrate to the House of Lords that the public enthusiasm in favour of the Reform Bill has not abated." There was a grand procession, all work was suspended, and the most extraordinary excitement prevailed. Old Unionists who remember these proceedings may well speak of "our degenerate days"—at least so far as political organisation is concerned. The following account of this great meeting is by a contemporary writer :—

"Just before the division in the Lords, a great public meeting was held at Birmingham, consisting, it was said, of 150,000 persons. This meeting passed resolutions, thanking Lords Althorpe and John Russell for their conduct in the Commons during the passage of the bill through that House; and before the meeting separated a resolution, by which a determination not to pay taxes if the bill was rejected by the Lords, was submitted to the multitude assembled. This revolutionary proceeding (for such it was) received at once the unanimous and vehement assent of the meeting. Mr. Attwood communicated the vote of thanks to the two noble Lords, the closing resolution being made known to all the world through the newspapers. The Chancellor of the Exchequer and Lord John Russell, nothing daunted, replied in set phrase of gratitude and compliment to the meeting in letters to Mr. Attwood, who was celebrated as the great leader of the Birmingham Political Union; and the expressions of Lord John Russell's letter attracted universal attention and remark."

The infatuated Lords, however, rejected the bill. After a debate of five nights the second reading was lost by 199 votes against 158. The popular indignation was terrible, and the most fearful consequences

were anticipated; and but for the strong power of the Political Union, fearful consequences would have inevitably followed. As it was, there were riots at Bristol, Nottingham Castle was destroyed, and other scenes of violence occurred. The Birmingham Union threatened to march up to London. In the town the feeling was a mingled one of sorrow and of anger. The contemporary chronicle gives us this picture of one of the incidents of the time :—

October 17, 1831.—It affords us sincere gratification to state, that however much the hopes and expectations of the working classes among our townsmen may have been disappointed by the rejection of the Reform Bill by the Lords, the intelligence, as we confidently anticipated last week, has not been productive of any acts of violence or breach of the peace requiring particular notice. A slight ebullition of feeling was occasioned in the course of Monday, by an endeavour, on the part of the officiating clergy of St. Philip's, to remove from the cupola of that church two black flags, which had been officiously and improperly placed there early that morning, by direction, or with the sanction of Mr. Weston, one of the churchwardens of St. Martin's parish. Their removal was resisted by a number of persons, in spite of the remonstrances of the Rev. Gentleman and some of the police; and having been taken down for a short time they were re-hoisted amidst the cheers of the crowd. Mr. Weston afterwards yielded to the better counsel of some individuals attracted to the spot, and the flags being removed at dusk, all discord on that account ceased. In the course of the same evening a number of mischievous boys and loose characters assembled and paraded several of the streets of the town in a body, and in their progress broke a number of windows, principally in St. Mary's Square and its vicinity. The heavy rain, however, which fell as the night advanced, rapidly thinned their ranks, and the whole soon dispersed. With these exceptions the town has continued as quiet as usual, and we have no doubt will remain so. The "Political Council" have prudently refrained from convening a meeting of the populace on the subject, and instead have adopted a petition to the House of Commons, which has been forwarded to Mr. O'Connell for presentation.

It has been stated, that after the altercation above referred to, at St. Philip's church, the Rev. C. Eckersall was abused and grossly insulted by the crowd. We are, however, requested by that gentleman to say, that the feeling displayed towards him on the occasion has been greatly overcharged.

In October there was another

TOWN'S MEETING.

October 24, 1831.—At a highly respectable and numerous meeting of the Inhabitant Householders of Birmingham and its neighbourhood, held at Dee's Royal Hotel, and, by adjournment, at Mr. Beardsworth's Repository, on Thursday, the 20th day of October, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of addressing his Majesty, to express their deep regret and bitter disappointment at the Rejection of the Reform Bill in the Upper House of Parliament—to declare their unabated confidence in his Majesty's enlightened patriotism, and in the zeal, wisdom, and firmness of his confidential Advisers—and to express their earnest hope that all Constitutional Measures will be employed for the speedy accomplishment of an object so essential to the peace and welfare of the country.

Mr. James Jaffray* gives the following details of this important meeting :—

Nearly all the leading men of the town, of Liberal opinions, took part in the proceedings. Strong language was used by men not accustomed to it. Mr. Joseph Parkes said: "If the Lords do not soon pass the bill, it cannot be concealed—nay, it is probable—that either a peaceful revolution will come through the Government in some such measure, or a violent one will come through the people. It is impossible to defeat the rights and power of the people. If a violent anti-reform Ministry subvert Lord Grey's Government—if the liberty of the press is attacked, as in that event it will be—if the blood of the people is shed—God forbid that I should be the last to oppose and contend with such tyranny."

Mr. William Redfern followed in a similar strain :—"I do not hesitate to say that if the question were put—which will you have, a reform accompanied by revolution, or no reform at all?—I should not hesitate to say, give me the first. I will not have the last alternative."

They passed resolutions demanding "the bill, the whole bill, and nothing but the bill;" and addressed his Majesty and Earl Grey, (the Premier.) calling upon them, in the one instance, to exercise his prerogative of creating new Peers, and in the other, to take means to get the bill carried into law. They also condemned the conduct of the Bishops, which "had greatly deprived them of the national respect, and would ultimately deprive them of their legislative functions." Further, they issued the following address to the Kingdom :—

"*Friends, Countrymen, and Brothers!*—Our gracious King, firm and inflexible in defence of his people, has again come forward in the moment of their extreme need. Regardless of the clamours of an infuriated faction howling around the steps of his Throne, he has again, in person, nobly put forth his royal prerogative in our defence, and sent the House of Lords back into the midst of the People to receive a lesson of the duties which they owe to their country, and of the extreme dangers which must arise if they should rashly persist in placing themselves in oppositon to the irresistible will of the Nation!

"*Friends and Fellow Countrymen!*—Our road is clear. Our mind is made up. WE WILL STAND BY LORD GREY. That illustrious Statesman has declared that the BILL OF REFORM shall *become Law*, in all its essential principles and provisions. The whole history of his life forbids us to mistrust his word. The strength of a United Nation, which he wields, forbids us to distrust his power. *Therefore we will stand by Lord Grey.* And if by any possibility he should be driven from power, we will carry him back upon the shoulders of the People!

"*Friends and Fellow Countrymen!*—The King, the Ministers, the House of Commons, and the People, are all united. All these have *given proof* that they are true to the cause of Liberty, and they are determined to carry the Bill of Reform into a Law. This HOLY LEAGUE is invincible. Nothing can shake its power if no discord or disunion arises within itself. It is for you, therefore, to shun *discord* as the only *rock* on which your hopes can be wrecked. Discord among yourselves would give to your enemies the only possible chance of obtaining a triumph over you. Let no disunion arise among you; and nothing can prevent the downfall of that atrocious Oligarchy which has so long trampled upon the Liberty and Happiness of the Country.

* Hints for a History of Birmingham. By James Jaffray

"*Friends and Fellow Countrymen!*—At the same time that we show confidence in the King and his Ministers, and a fixed determination to preserve the law, let us show no weakness—no timidity—no luke-warmness—in the cause of Liberty. Let all be united as one man in the enthusiastic and determined support of this great, this holy cause. Let POLITICAL UNIONS be formed instantly in every Town, in every District, and in every Village where they do not already exist. Let the nation stand forth in its strength, and in peaceful and commanding majesty express its WILL; and that WILL *is certain to become the Law of the land.*

"*Friends and Fellow Countrymen!*—Be patient. Be peaceful. Be firm. Be united. Be determined. Place your confidence in the King and in his Ministers. Until *these* shall deceive you, there can be no fear for the Liberties of England.

"*Friends and Fellow Countrymen!*—Listen to us. The SWORD must not be drawn in England. The terrible knell of the TOCSIN must not sound. The tears of the Widow and Orphan must not mark our course. These are the last dread alternatives of an oppressed nation. The influence of the Oligarchy, aided by a corrupt and degenerated BENCH OF BISHOPS, has obtained a momentary triumph in the House of Lords. By the power of the King and of the Law we will humble the Oligarchy in the dust. Our gallant neighbours the French effected a Glorious Revolution by lifting the BARRICADES, cemented by the best blood of the nation. WE will have no BARRICADES. Without BLOOD—without anarchy—without violation of the Law we will accomplish the most GLORIOUS REFORMATION recorded in the History of the World.

"GOD BLESS THE KING!

"By order of the Council,

"THOMAS ATTWOOD, Chairman,
"BENJAMIN HADLEY, Secretary."

It was proposed by the Political Union, to meet the exigences of the time, to form affiliated unions throughout the country. This was declared to be illegal, and on November 21 a proclamation to that effect was published, and the design was accordingly abandoned; but the scheme was carried out quite as effectively without the name of affiliated societies as with it. As the busy year of 1831 closed, the organisation of the various unions was progressing, and the people were preparing themselves to win the glorious victory of 1832.

CHAPTER V.—1831-1841.

§ 1. APPEARANCE OF THE TOWN.

The great changes in the appearance of the town during this decade were caused both by destruction and construction. Houses were taken down, streets widened, and our two noblest public buildings, the Town Hall and Free Grammar School, were erected. We do not meet with advertisements of houses to let similar to those of the preceding decades. The garden-like character of the town was rapidly changing. Land was increasing in value to such an extent that houses were more remunerative than gardens—and it is in the nature of money to ignore the beautiful, and look only to returns; and so the work of "progress" goes on, and old Birmingham becomes metamorphosed into modern Birmingham.

The following is a description of Mr. Barry's design for the Town Hall, which was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1832. The writer says:—

It is not of a description to strike at first view, except as being an admirably executed drawing, it seeming to consist of little more than an hexastyle portico of a very plain character; when we come, however, to examine it, we discover it to be replete with beauties, and to afford evidence of study, of original thought, and more than ordinary feeling. The order is a Doric, or rather what is usually denominated Tuscan, the columns having bases and unfluted shafts, and the frieze being without triglyphs; still Tuscan would very ill designate the general character, which is treated more in the spirit of the Grecian Doric than any other style. The columns are raised on a basement or stylobate, pierced only by three doors of narrow proportions, and with exceedingly deep plain lintels and architraves. These doors correspond with the centre and two extreme intercolumns of the portico above; so that the distance of solid unbroken wall between them is very considerable, and conveys the idea of very great strength. Still this arrangement would have been attended with a disagreeable appearance of weakness, as the lateral doors would have been too near the angles, had not the architect most felicitously overcome this inconvenience by extending the basement at each end beyond the portico itself, by the addition of a very bold pedestal carried up as high as the bases of the columns.

Another circumstance that contributes materially to enhance the rich picturesque effect of the whole, yet which is apt to escape notice in a drawing, is that he has introduced columns within the portico behind those in front, thereby producing not only a fine degree of *chiar'oscuro*, but great perspective variety and force. The building is insulated, and the columns are continued along the sides; yet from want of a plan, and owing to the point from which the edifice is viewed, we cannot say whether there is a regular intercolumn between the column and the wall. We should apprehend that their bases are closed to the wall, even if no part of the shafts were engaged in it, otherwise, as the building is only hexastyle in front, the interior space would be too confined, except formed into a single large apartment. Rarely have we seen a design possessing so much originality, with apparently no pretension to novelty; or so true to the spirit of classical architecture, without at all reminding us of any individual model.

The next remarkable public building added to the town was the noble school of King Edward VI.—still one of the most beautiful ornaments of Birmingham. On February 18, 1833, the following paragraph was published :—

The Governors of the Free Grammar School have awarded their first premium of £100 for the best design for the New School Buildings and Masters' Houses to Mr. Charles Barry, of London; the second premium of £70 to Mr. Hayward, of Bath; and the third of £40 to Mr. Godwin, of London. These three designs, we understand, were selected from among upwards of sixty others, the great majority of which were also Gothic. That sent in by Mr. Barry, and from which the new edifice will doubtless be erected, is a rich and beautiful specimen of the Florid style; it is exceedingly appropriate, and is well adapted for the purposes for which it is intended, and while it serves to mark the era in which the school was founded, will prove highly ornamental to the town. Mr. Barry is an Architect of well-known skill and experience, and has been employed in the erection of several Churches, under the Parliamentary Commissioners, his latest being the New Church at Brighton. The Royal Institution at Manchester, and the Travellers' Club House, in Pall Mall, were also built from his designs, and under his superintendence.

The year 1834 was distinguished by the proposal of the Roman Catholics of the town to erect a Cathedral, which "would outvie any place of worship in the town." We quote the first reference to this work :—

January 27, 1834.—It will be seen by a notice in this page, that the practicability of erecting a Roman Catholic Cathedral in this town is under consideration. Dr. Walsh, Vicar Apostolic of the Midland district, presided at a meeting held in St. Peter's Chapel, yesterday week, and various resolutions to that end was entered into. Among those who took part in the proceedings, were the Rev. Messrs. M'Donnell and Peach, Messrs. Hardman, Tidmarsh, Palmer, Hopkins, Brien, Green, Boultbee, Bridge, Chambers, and Hansom—the latter of whom stated that he was sure they might set up a building which would outvie any place of worship in the town. The Right Rev. Chairman expressed his intention of giving £200 to the fund, and a monthly contribution of one pound towards payment of the interest of money to be borrowed. Mr. M'Donnell said he should put

down his name for £20, and for half a sovereign per month until the building is completed. Other persons present also promised pecuniary assistance towards the object.

Early in 1835 the securities for the erecting of the Town Hall published the following report :—

BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL.

January 26, 1835.—We, the undersigned, Securities for erecting this magnificent building, beg to lay before the public the following statement of monies lost by us, in consequence of our connexion with the Birmingham Town Hall, and to invite the respectable inhabitants of the town and borough to institute an inquiry into the fair value of the building, with a view of determining whether something ought not to be done for our relief.

We feel convinced that the inhabitants of the borough do not desire to possess the building at a less cost than, under all circumstances considered, was absolutely necessary for its erection, nor would they wish to leave us, the Securities, exposed to those ruinous consequences which must ensue, unless we are protected by the generous interference of the town.

Money advanced by Mr. Welch, sen., at the commencement of the work, to enable the Architects and Builders to proceed	£1,310	0	0
Money ditto by Mr. Tench	500	0	0
Money advanced by Mr. Welch, sen.	1,300	0	0
Money ditto by Mr. Lloyd	1,300	0	0
Money ditto by Mr. Welch, sen., in September, 1834	1,000	0	0
Money ditto by Mr. Lloyd	1,000	0	0
	£6,410	0	0

W. P. LLOYD,
JOHN WELCH,
EDWARD TENCH,

Jan., 1835. Securities for erecting the Birmingham Town Hall.

On February 16 we learn that "the new Market Hall was thrown open to the public on Thursday last [February 12, 1835], and during the whole of the day it was crowded by persons, a considerable portion of whom were no doubt attracted by curiosity. On Saturday it was again visited by great numbers, and in the evening was lighted up with gas for the accommodation of buyers and sellers."

The following statement shows how rapidly the town was now changing from the hardware village to the industrial capital of the Midlands :—

Nov. 2, 1835.—*Improvement in the value of Property in Birmingham.*—In 1806 the old Parsonage-house and Garden, situate at the bottom of Worcester-street, was sold by auction, under the authority of Parliament, the buildings having become from age unfit,

and the site being unsuitable for the residence of the Rector of St. Martin's. The property was purchased on speculation at £5,550, a sum then considered by all a *bold price*, and many ventured the opinion that the purchaser would never see his money again. The result, however, proves otherwise. It is considered, that by the sale of materials, and by temporary and permanent lettings, 3 per cent. interest at least has been realised during the outlay, and the re-sale on Monday last, in 31 lots, produced £9,159.

Oct. 30, 1837.—In "Godwin's State of Architecture in the Provinces," the Free Grammar School of this town is thus alluded to:—In Birmingham the building of the greatest importance, at this time in progress, is Edward the Sixth's Free School, designed by Mr. Barry. This is now nearly completed, and affords a fair evidence of the skill with which that gentleman will carry out his beautiful designs for the Houses of Parliament, if permitted to act according to his own judgment. The style in which it is built is of the latest period of pure Gothic in England, namely, that which prevailed immediately before the importation of forms from Italy, which took place about the commencement of the sixteenth century, and led to the mixed style known as the Elizabethan. My general impression is that it is not merely an ornament to Birmingham but to England.

From a resolution of the Market Committee, and the comments of the editor, we learn the state of the Fish Market at the end of 1840. This resolution was read at a meeting of the Town Council by Mr. J. Cadbury :—

"That being fully convinced of the utility, economy, and great pecuniary advantage that would arise from rendering the Fish Market in Dale End as commodious and cleanly as possible, and also the importance of affording the greatest facility and convenience to the purchasers of fish, the question of the propriety of paving the ground be submitted to a general meeting of the Commissioners." With respect to the fish market, every person acquainted with it must know that its present arrangement was most unsightly, and extremely inconvenient to the public. The plan proposed by the Market Committee was that the whole of the space of ground at present occupied should be flagged. This would entail a considerable expense, but it would render the market very complete. The space it was proposed to flag would be devoted to the erection of stalls, and a commodious footpath would be left exclusively for passengers and persons frequenting the shops. The present footpath was only ten feet six inches wide, but by the adoption of the proposed plan, there would be an uniform arrangement of stalls the whole length, and leaving an unobstructed footpath of the width of twelve feet.

The reader has now before him a complete record of the changes which have been made in the appearance of the town during one hundred years, and from this history he can construct for himself an authentic picture of Old Birmingham.

§ 2. PUBLIC LIFE AND EVENTS.

The public life of the town was, for the first year or two of this decade, almost entirely absorbed in the agitation for the Reform Bill; the history of which will be related in another chapter. Politics entered into almost every public question at this time, and the Reformers made their presence and power felt at almost every public meeting. For example take this report of a parish meeting :—

March 26, 1832.—Pursuant to notice, the Overseers of the parish attended at the Public Office, on Tuesday last, for the purpose of laying before the inhabitants the accounts of the High Bailiff and Constables for the last year. In consequence of the invitation of the "Political Council," an unusual number of persons attended to resist the passing of the High Bailiff's portion of the accounts; and if the object of that body were, through its deputies, to prevent the transacting of any part of the public business, its bidding was most effectually accomplished. Mr. Knight, one of the Overseers, having declined filling the chair, the Low Bailiff was voted to it, and as soon as that gentlemen had taken possession, cries of adjournment were raised, to the interruption of all proceedings. After much confusion, altercation, and clamour, it was ascertained that the accommodation required could not be obtained at Mr. Beardsworth's, and an adjournment to St. Martin's Church, was put and carried. On reaching the gates, however, it was found that admittance was refused by the Churchwardens. Mr. Weston and the multitude, headed by Messrs. Edmonds, Jones, Salt, and Hadley, remained in the open space in front of the church. A car was speedly procured, from which Messrs. Edmonds and Jones spoke, and eventually they resolved to return to the Public Office. On arriving there it was ascertained that the Low Bailiff, the Overseers, and most of the respectable part of the meeting, declining to follow the members of the Council in their migratory excursions, had withdrawn. Mr. Hadley, by whom the placards urging resistance to the passing of the High Bailiff's accounts were signed, was then very appropriately called to preside; and after some further discussion it was once more resolved to adjourn to the Old Square. Here Mr. Hadley resumed the chair, elevated on the box of a hackney coach, and a motion was put and carried by his supporter and friend, Edmonds, that the meeting should adjourn *sine die*, which being declared carried, the crowd forthwith dispersed, and the affair was brought to a close.

Temperance Societies were now organising their crusade against the giant evil of this country. The following is a brief reference to one of the famous pioneers in this social reform :—

June 18, 1832.—Mr. Cruikshank, the accredited agent of the British and Foreign Temperance Society, whose exertions on behalf of those institutions has brought him from Scotland to England, is a man of very extraordinary natural gifts. He was originally a sailor, and afterwards settled in Dundee, where he drove a cart, from which circumstance arose the custom of calling him, when he first commenced his present employment, "the

Dundee Carter." It is said that his appeals are perfectly irresistable, and that his speeches are a torrent of excellence unaided by art. At all events our townsmen will have an opportunity of judging for themselves, as Mr. Cruikshank has engaged to attend four meetings, to be held in this town during the present week.

The next extract proves that the old spirit of humanity was also active in the town :—

August 6, 1832.—A public meeting was held on Thursday evening last, at Carr's-lane Meeting-house, for the purpose of taking into consideration the measures most likely to promote the entire and immediate abolition of Negro Slavery in the West Indian Colonies.

This was the year of that terrible visitation, the cholera, which carried off its victims with a virulence and rapidity exceedings the mortality of the most fatal plagues recorded in history. Happly this town was scarcely, if at all, visited by the disease. It raged in the immediate neighbourhood, and such places as Bilston, Tipton, and West Bromwich suffered fearfully. On August 13, 1832, the inhabitants were startled by the following announcement :—

CHOLERA IN BIRMINGHAM.

We regret to state that since our last publication several cases of decided Spasmodic Cholera have occurred in this town. The first victim of this dreadful disease was Joshua Allsop, M.D.

A Vestry meeting was held in St. Martin's Church on August 7, for the purpose of obtaining a church rate. It was proposed to grant one of sixpence in the pound, but the motion was resisted. Mr. Salt, one of the Churchwardens, then asked for one of fourpence, but this was also refused; and the noisy and prolonged meeting did not break up till six o'clock. On September 24, we again read :—

At the adjourned Vestry Meeting held at St. Martin's Church, on Tuesday last, the Report of the Auditing Committee, presented by Mr. Edmonds, recommending the granting of a four-penny rate for the expenses of the Church and Chapel Wardens of the present year, was met by another motion of adjournment for another fortnight, which after much disgraceful uproar and confusion, was carried by a large majority. The church was filled, as usual, to excess, the great bulk of those present being evidently not rate-payer, and the Churchwardens (Messrs. Weston and Salt) were received on their appearance with loud expressions of disapprobation. Mr. Edmonds supported the proposed rate, and was opposed by some of his former coadjutors in matters of the kind, among whom were Messrs. Pare, M'Donnell, Hadley and others, and the motion for adjournment was carried in spite of the efforts of himself and his colleague, Mr. Salt. The affair continues therefore just where the meeting found it. No rate is granted, and it remains to be seen whether the Churchwardens will put in force their threat of applying for a *mandamus*, or wait until

they are again defeated at another meeting. The Rector had again the unthankful office of presiding, and with all his patience and endurance, it was with difficulty he could refrain from leaving the chair and bringing the meeting to an abrupt termination.

The presence of the Cholera produced, at least, the outward signs of religion. On October 1, the following notice was published :—

Tuesday last, spontaneously set apart in this town as a day of humiliation, prayer, and thanksgiving, was observed with highly becoming solemnity. All kind of business was suspended, and the various places of public worship, whether of the establishment or among dissenters, were crowded with attentive and, in some instances, overflowing congregations, both morning and evening. The merciful exemption of this town from the ravages of the disease still happily continues, the only case reported since our last being that of a child four years of age ; and in this case, as well as the one reported last week, we understand exhibit symptoms of ultimate recovery.

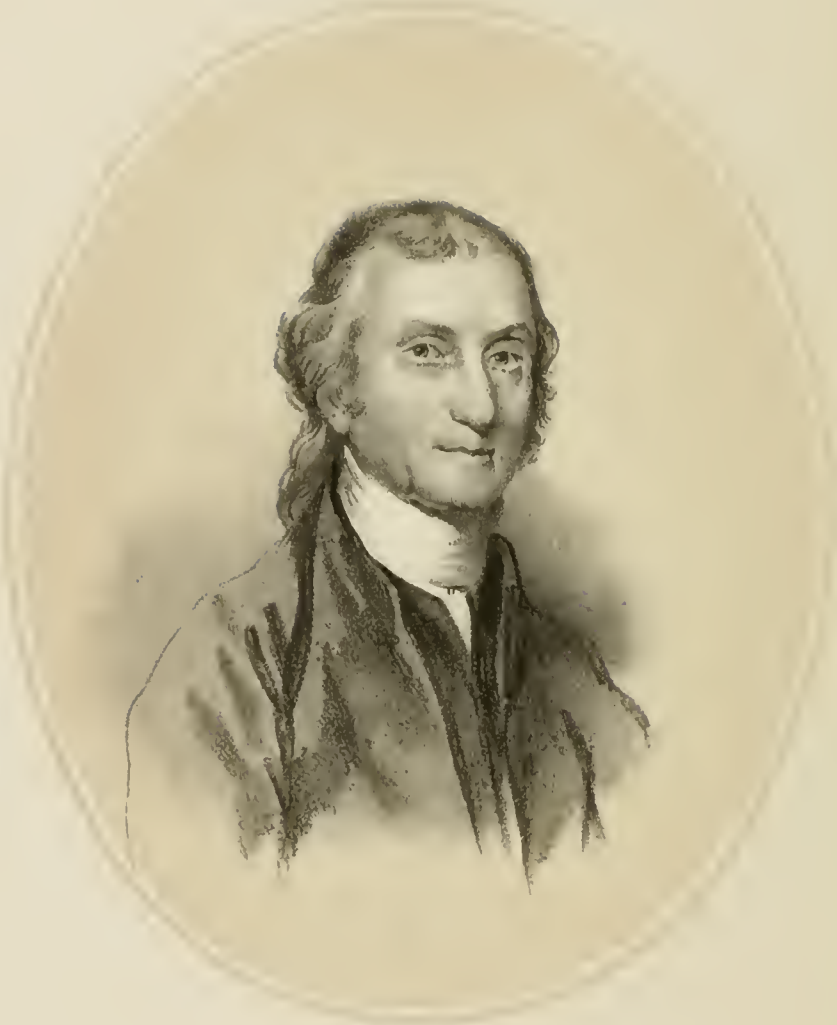
Steam carriages for travelling on the ordinary turnpike road absorbed the minds of many Birmingham Mechanics at this time ; and several experiments were made which excited a great deal of interest. Here is the record of one :—

December 10, 1832.—The Steam Carriage, constructed by our townsmen, Messrs. Heaton, made a short journey on the Hales Owen Road, on Friday last, in order to try the power of a new boiler in generating steam, and which, we understand, performed its office most admirably. The lack of steam, which is an evil hitherto common to all locomotive steam carriages when put to considerable speed for some distance, appears now to be obviated, and the performance of a long jonrney in reasonable time by these carriages cannot remain much longer an uncertainty. The carriage started from the manufactory in Shadwell-street and proceeded up Great Charles-street hill at the rate of ten miles an hour. Its average rate of travelling, however, seems to be about eight miles an hour, and this it performs with great safety and certainty along all roads. About thirty of Messrs. Hill's pupils contrived to get upon the carriage, and rode about two miles, returning with it, evidently much gratified with the novelty of the conveyance.

The year closed with a brief account of the "introduction of a new trade":—

December 31, 1832.—A Correspondent observes that he is glad to see a new trade springing up in this town, viz., the sweeping the crossings of the streets ; but he fears that unless the public bestow now and then a few half pence and pence, as in London, it will be a short-lived trade. He asked a poor man who was sweeping a crossing, and which he he did very neatly, whether it answered, and he replied—"No, sir, not yet ; people think I am paid by the parish, but that is not the case, I have nothing but what persons please to give me for a clean road."

Early in 1833 Birmingham did something to repair the injustice of 1791. Repenting of her bigoted treatment of Dr. Priestley, it was



PRIESTLEY.

resolved to make some amends, and this was done in the usual English fashion, by having a dinner :—

April 1, 1833.—The centenary of the birth of Dr. Priestley was celebrated in this town on Thursday last, by a public dinner at Dee's Royal Hotel, under the presidency of the Rev. John Corrie, and of which nearly two hundred gentlemen partook. Among the company were a number of Unitarian Ministers, several of whom came considerable distances to be present on the occasion. The excellent dinner provided by Mr. Dee having been disposed of, and "The King" and other toasts in honour of the Royal Family given, the Chairman, in proposing "The Memory of Dr. Priestley," passed a high and able eulogium on the character of the illustrious man whose birth-day they had met to celebrate, and adverted to some of the more prominent of his claims upon their admiration. Mr. Joseph Parkes expressed, in acknowledgment, the grateful sense entertained by the surviving relatives and friends of Dr. Priestley of the honour conferred upon his character by the meeting; and lamented that Mr. Priestley, from infirmity, was prevented from attending and returning thanks in person on an occasion so gratifying and honourable to the memory of his respected father. The health of the Rev. John Kentish, and of the Chairman, was then drunk and suitably acknowledged. The next toast given was "Joseph Priestley, Esq.; happiness and prosperity to his family, and to all the descendants of Dr. Priestley in England and North America;" which was replied to by the Rev. Mr. Bowen, of Cradley, his son-in-law. On "the cause of truth and of civil and religious liberty" being given, the company was addressed by the Rev. J. Grundy, of Manchester. The "Memory of Dr. Parr," and the "Memory of the Rev. Robert Hall" were afterwards given—the latter "for his manly and eloquent vindication of Dr. Priestley's name," and the former as "the fearless advocate of his public and private character." The Rev. Mr. Berry, of Manchester, having replied to the last mentioned toast, the health of the Rev. Hugh Hutton was given and acknowledged. The Chairman next proposed "The honoured memory of the Rev. William Hawkes, Dr. Priestley's greatly esteemed predecessor; of the Rev. Sam. Blyth, his affectionate colleague; of the Rev. Dr. Toulmin; and of the Rev. Radcliffe Scholefield, the companion of his early studies and of a very interesting term of his after years." This toast was acknowledged by the Rev. William Hawkes, Mr. George Blyth, the Rev. Robert Kell, and Mr. Hawkes Smith. The health of the Rev. S. Bache, and of the Rev. J. Martineau, of Liverpool, was next given, and replied to by those gentlemen. The Rev. J. J. Tayler, of Manchester, and Mr. Henry Smith afterwards addressed the company; and the meeting did not break up until a late hour.

On the 29th of March a meeting of Merchants and Manufacturers was held on the important subject of the Patent Laws. Mr. B. Cook was in the chair, and the following resolutions were passed :—

1. That considering every new idea, whereof the manifestation or development may become useful to society, to belong exclusively to him who conceives it, and that it is highly advantageous to the useful arts and manufactures to encourage industry by securing the property of inventions to their authors at a moderate expense; this meeting is of opinion that such security may be afforded at a considerable less cost that what is now payable as fees and stamps on the granting of Letters Patent.

2. That the Bill introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Godson, "to explain and amend the Laws respecting Letters Patent for Inventions," is defective in most of its provisions, and if passed into a law, would fail to secure to inventors that protection and facility which it is the object of the Patent Laws to do.

3. That the amendment now proposed to Mr. Godson's Bill be approved and printed, and that Mr. Newton, of London, be requested to wait upon Mr. Godson therewith, and endeavour to prevail upon him to adopt the same.

4. That, in the event of Mr. Godson refusing to adopt those amendments, or such of them as appear to be of the most importance, a Petition be presented to the House of Commons embracing the spirit of the alterations now suggested.

5. That the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee to superintend the progress of the Bill through Parliament, and to adopt such measures therein as they shall think expedient; and that such Committee have power to add to their number:—

Mr. B. Cook	Mr. Goddard
Dr. Church	Mr. C. H. Capper
Mr. Van Wart	Mr. W. Richards
Mr. Edward Lucas	Mr. F. Muntz
Mr. Horne	Mr. R. Rotton

6. That a Subscription be immediately entered into to defray the necessary expenses.

7. That the best thanks of the meeting be presented to Mr. Newton, of the Office of Patents, London, for the interest he has taken in the subject, and for the able manner in which he has explained the same to the Meeting.

8. That Messrs. Tyndall and Rawlins be appointed Secretaries, to whom all communications are requested to be addressed.

On April 16 an Anti-Slavery Meeting was held in Dee's Assembly Room. Mr. John Simcox, the High Bailiff, was in the chair. The meeting was called in support of the "immediate and complete" abolition of that iniquitous trade. An opposition, headed by Mr. G. F. Muntz, and other members of the Political Union, was organised, and, on the morning of the meeting a placard was posted about the town, calling upon all who were opposed to the "spoliation of property" to attend the meeting. The result was a scene of great disorder and confusion. The attendance was much in excess of the accommodation, and loud cries for an adjournment greeted the speakers. The proceedings were for some time interrupted, and "many of the ladies hastily retired in considerable alarm. Mr. Chance and others of the requisitionists interfered, and expressed their determination not to adjourn." The Rev. W. Marsh moved, and Mr. Cadbury seconded, the resolution. A working-man, named Ethrington, moved as an

amendment, "that Slavery at home should be first abolished." This was seconded, and only added to the confusion of the meeting. Mr. G. F. Muntz spoke next, and moved another amendment to the effect, "that anxious as we are for the early but gradual abolition of Negro Slavery, we cannot admit that, in the peculiar crisis of the country, it is a subject which calls for the attention of His Majesty's Government, in preference to the measures necessary to be carried into effect for promoting the commercial and manufacturing interests of the country; nor can we sanction any proposition for the abolition of Negro Slavery, unaccompanied by an offer of granting to the owners of West India Estates such compensation as Parliament may think proper." Mr. T. E. Lee likewise supported the claim of the slave owners to compensation, and seconded the amendment of Mr. Muntz.

A number of persons, including Mr. George Edmonds, also spoke, and the confusion became worse confounded. We quote the conclusion of this extraordinary meeting:—

The Rev. P. Duncan, who had been resident eleven years in the West Indies, followed, and detailed, in a touching and most impressive manner, facts proving that the slaves were in a fit state for receiving freedom, and that if the act of humanity and justice were much longer withheld, it would be beyond the means of Government to confer as a boon what they would have themselves asserted and claimed as a right. In the course of his speech, Mr. Duncan made direct reference to statements advanced by Mr. Muntz and Mr. Lee, some of which from personal knowledge he was able distinctly to refute.

At the conclusion of Mr. Duncan's address, a person of the name of Cloglan, said to be an itinerant Political Union Lecturer, claimed to be heard. Objection being made on the ground that he was a stranger to the town, he stated himself to be an inhabitant, and on that plea he was allowed by the Chairman to proceed. He then entered into statements with the evident view of diminishing the effect of the very powerful address of Mr. Duncan, and closed by proposing a third amendment—"That the meeting should be adjourned for a fortnight,"—to enable the High Bailiff to convene a meeting in the mean time, relative to the public distress. He insisted, with great vehemence, that his amendment should be at once put from the chair, and on Mr. M'Donnell attempting to obtain a hearing in reply, he was assailed with the most determined opposition from the dense mass of persons at the lower end of the room. To such a height did the interruption rise, that the few ladies who still remained precipitately left the room. During the occasional but partial intermissions, Mr. M'Donnell persevered, but was at length completely clamoured down. Eventually the High Bailiff, finding all efforts to restore tranquillity unavailing, rose and said, "I have sat patiently for upwards of six hours, during the greater part of which time scenes of disorder have constantly occurred; and as I see no possible chance of any gentleman obtaining an impartial hearing, I therefore, while I am obliged to acknowledge it to be a disgrace to the town of

Birmingham, declare this meeting dissolved." Mr. Muntz afterwards expressed his satisfaction at the determination of the Chairman, as he had intended to have moved an adjournment *sine die.*

Thus terminated one of the most disgraceful interferences with the rights of the inhabitants that it has been our duty to record since the establishment of the Political Union. The proceedings assumed a most singular form, inasmuch as parties usually taking a lead were found ranged on either side, Mr. Edmonds and the Rev. Mr. M'Donnell advocating the views of the requisitionists, while Mr. Muntz appeared disposed to encourage the retained advocate of West India Planters in his defence of Slavery, until Mr. Coglan unadvisedly presented an extenuating argument for the *whip*, which coming forth too broadly to be mistaken, for a while interfered with the fluent progress of the speaker. It is obvious from the result of the proceedings that the popular elements of the Union have become unmanageable even to the leaders themselves, and it is to be feared that public meetings in future will become open to the harangues of any travelling agitator who may be disposed to address them.

After the dissolution of the meeting the Requisitionists withdrew into an adjoining room, and the following vote of thanks to the chairman was unanimously passed :—"That our best and grateful thanks be presented to the High Bailiff for the impartial, patient, and decisive conduct he maintained in the chair, under circumstances unprecedented as they were disorderly." On the following day another meeting of the Requisitionists and others took place at the Public Office, and after much dissention, during which various plans were suggested as to the course that should, under the circumstances, be pursued, it was determined that the petition to Parliament, intended to be proposed to the public meeting, should be prepared for general signature, which is now in progress. At this meeting a claim was made by Mr. Dee. of the Royal Hotel, for damages sustained by the breaking of forms, chairs, and glass, in the room, on the preceding day, to the amount of about twenty pounds; and we have reason to believe that further proceedings will be taken by the Requisitionists to mark their sense of the uncalled for and unjustifiable interference with their privilege as inhabitants of the town, meeting for the purpose of exercising their right of petitioning.

The requisitionists published the following advertisement :—

ABOLITION OF COLONIAL SLAVERY.

April 22, 1833.—At a Meeting of Gentlemen, who signed the requisition to the High Bailiff on the subject of the Abolition of Slavery, and of others friendly to that object, held at the Public Office, April 17, 1833; Thomas Lowe, Esq., in the Chair. This Meeting being fully of the opinion that the feeling of a very large majority of the inhabitants of the town is in favour of the immediate abolition of Negro Slavery in the British Colonies, but that the proceedings of yesterday have proved the unpracticability of giving expression to that feeling through the medium of a public meeting, without a repetition of the same systematic and disgraceful interruption,—

Resolved unanimously—That Petitions to both Houses of Parliament for the immediate Abolition of Slavery, to be entitled the Petition of the undersigned Magistrates, Clergy, Ministers, Bankers, Merchants, Manufacturers, and other Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood of Birmingham, be forthwith prepared and circulated for signature.

THOMAS LOWE, Chairman.

In the beginning of May the Factory Commissioners visited Birmingham in pursuit of their enquiry respecting the labour of Children. They were Mr. John Spencer, Mr. Leonard Hardy, and Mr. S. Woolriche, Inspector General of Military Hospitals. The *Gazette* gives the following report of their visit, a report which we anticipate is not a little *couleur de rose* :—

During their stay they visited several Brass foundries, Button, Lamp, Brace, Web, Pin, and other manufactories, when they saw the masters, work people, and children, and examined all. In no one instance, we are happy to state, did there appear to be any forced labour of children, nor any great number collected together, as in cotton and silk factories. No complaint of oppression of any kind was made to the Commissioners, nor any expression on the part of any of the children of dislike to their labour. The hours of daily labour they found to be ten generally; and altogether the result of the investigation was satisfactory to the Commissioners, and creditable to the parties who were the subject of their enquiry. The impression made upon the minds of the Board was, we understood, that the working classes of the town displayed much intelligence, and appeared to be in a prosperous state.

This year we lost a good and useful man :—

On Thursday, at his residence in the Aston road, in the 75th year of his age, Mr. James Armitage, of this town. Retired and unobtrusive in his habits, his talents and acquirements were but partially known beyond the domestic circle, within which they were justly appreciated, and his exemplary worth as a husband, as a father, and friend most affectionately regarded. As a tradesman, he was distinguished by great industry and punctuality, and his particular branch of business, that of a Chemist, led him to apply himself to scientific objects, in which he displayed attainments of no common order. It was, however, in his favourite pursuit of Botany that he became known as an enthusiastic student. His attachment to that department of Science, and his desire for its extension, induced him to engage with great ardour in the formation and establishment of the Botanical and Horticultural Society of this town; and his extensive correspondence with several of the most eminent botanists of the day, obtained for the Society considerable advantages. For nearly twenty-seven years Mr. Armitage acted as Treasurer to the Birmingham Library, and in the discharge of the duties of the office he was closely identified with every plan devised for the welfare of that institution.

The next extract is the report of the first flower show of the

Botanical and Horticultural Society.

June 24, 1833.—The first public show of this Society was held on Wednesday and Thursday last, at the rooms of the Society of Arts; and, as we anticipated, was pronounced by competent judges to be one of the finest collections of rare and choice plants ever brought together in this country. The exhibition took place in the large circular room, which is admirably adapted for the purpose, and around and in the centre of which the plants and other productions were arranged on stages to the greatest advantage, leaving considerable unoccupied space for the reception of company. Ample, however, as this space was, it was so densely filled in a short time after the doors were thrown open, that it

was with difficulty parties could move round. This continued to be the case nearly the whole of the time the exhibition remained open on the first day, and the visitors were almost as numerous for several hours on the second day. Among those who were present a large proportion was composed of members of the Society and their families, comprising most of the respectable residents of the town and its vicinity. Many visitors from a distance were also present, and it was gratifying to learn that the exhibition and the arrangements were productive of the highest pleasure and satisfaction to all. The contributions from members and friends of the society, including fruits and vegetables, and collections of cut flowers, were considerably above four hundred in number, many of the plants being of considerable size and growth, and all in the highest state of cultivation.

The first annual meeting of the Temperance Society was held this year, and the following brief paragraph is all the report given of this not unimportant meeting :—

July 1, 1833.—On Wednesday the first annual meeting of the Birmingham Auxiliary Temperance Society took place, at the Friends' Meeting House, in Bull-street. The attendance was numerous and respectable, consisting chiefly of ladies. On the motion of the Rev. J. A. James, Mr. Daniel Ledsam took the chair; and having briefly alluded to the object of the meeting, the Secretary read the report, a copy of which appears in our fourth page. The Rev. William Marsh moved its adoption, and was seconded by the Rev. Hugh Stowell, who entered into an examination of the various objections to the society, to all of which he replied in an effective and convincing speech. The Rev. J. A. James and the Rev. Mr. Tye afterwards addressed the meeting, which then separated.

The following report will be interesting to members of Trades' Unions :—

November 18, 1833.—On Monday last George Stiles, George Holland, John Frewing, Thomas Joyce, and John Potts, members of the Trades' Union, were brought up for examination at the Public Office, charged with preventing William Plimly, a carpenter, in the employ of Mr. Barnett, builder, from following his usual occupation. The charge against the prisoners was conducted by Mr. J. Eyre Lee, and the evidence of Plimly went to show that they had on several occasions met and abused him when going to work, threatening him with violence in case he persisted in not joining the association. The prisoners having acknowledged their error, the Magistrates consented that they should be discharged on entering into their own recognizances of £50 each, to keep the peace, and particularly towards Mr. Barnett and Plimly, for twelve months, and also on their making a suitable apology to the former. Isaac Spooner, Esq., one of the sitting Magistrates, in the course of the proceedings, took an opportunity of referring in strong terms to the mischievous effects arising from illegal combinations of men against their employers, and of intimating that, should any other similar case be brought before him, in which acts of intimidation against orderly and well disposed workmen were clearly proved, the law would be enforced to its full extent. The prisoners, he observed, were all strangers to the town, and he trusted, therefore, that Birmingham workmen had not lent themselves to the same illegal practices.

The working men were beginning to take a greater interest in public questions, and as the result of this were providing themselves with places of meeting. Here is the record of their first effort in this direction :—

Dec 2, 1833.—A building is in course of erection in Broad-street, in this town, which is intended to be called "The Operative Builders' Guildhall." The first stone was laid on Thursday last, and the members of the "United Trades' Society" assembled in considerable numbers on the occasion, and proceeded to the site with banners, music, &c. Mr. Hansom, one of the architects of the Town Hall, it appears, was invited to officiate, and after addressing those present, he proceeded to lay the corner stone. The rain fell in torrents during the whole ceremony, and the procession returned immediately afterwards to the place at which it had assembled.

The year 1834 was very uneventful. Even politics had lost their excitement, and for a time were neglected. It was not until December that renewed activity was given to public affairs by the formation of a Constitutional Association, of which an account will be given under its proper heading. Our first extracts for 1834 record the deaths of two men whose names the inhabitants ought not willingly to let die :—

April 28, 1834.—Died, on Saturday last, at his house in New-street, in the 78th year of his age, the Rev. John Cooke, for more than forty years one of the Masters of King Edward's Grammar School in this town—for thirty-six years the Head Master; and for more than fifty years one of the Ministers of the Established Church, either as Curate of St Martin's or Minister of St. Batholomew's. In all these official stations, as well as in private life, he was beloved and respected for the purity of his mind, the gentleness of his manners, and the exemplary discharge of his various duties. Without mixing in party politics, he was firm in patriotic principles; without bigotry he devoted himself to the real honour of the Christian Church, and without pedantry, to the true cause of learning. In the course of last year he was presented to the Rectory of Northfield, near this town, and having closed a long and useful life, has been "gathered to his fathers," ripe in peaceful holiness, and the kind affection of this large population.

On July 21 we have this notice :—

Died, on Thursday last, at his residence, the Laurels, near this town, Timothy Smith, Esq., in the 70th year of his age.

In the same paper the following brief eulogium appeared :—

Our Obituary of the present week records the death of a highly-esteemed and respected townsman, Timothy Smith, Esq., whose sudden removal from the various stations of public usefulness, which he had for many years ably occupied, will be severely felt by all who acted with him. We learn that it is the intention of the Commissioners of the Street Act, the Members of the Court Leet, and of Lench's Trust, bodies with which the deceased had been actively connected for nearly half a century, publicly to testify their respect for his memory, by joining the funeral procession on Wednesday morning next, and we doubt not, but that many other individuals, unconnected with those

institutions, will experience a mournful satisfaction in rendering the same respectful tribute to his character. It is arranged to meet at the Town Hall at half-past Ten o'clock on the morning of the funeral.

Here is the record of another strike :—

September 22. 1834.—On Monday morning last, the workmen engaged upon the Town Hall struck and left their work, because some of the men employed upon the building by the Street Commissioners, *were not members of the* "*Trades' Union.*" Suitable remonstrance was used to convince the refractory body of the folly of their proceedings as it regarded themselves, and of its unkindness as it regarded their fellow workmen. For a while this produced no effect; but at length, finding that their object could not be attained, they returned on the following morning to their work. We are informed that the Commissioners were prepared, had the men brought about their own discharge, to have completed every portion of the work needful for the Festival, to have piled up the masses of stone and other materials, and deferred the completion of the exterior until another year. Happily, however, for the workmen and their families, their better feeling and sense of justice prevailed, and they returned to their occupations.

Here is another reference to the project of travelling on turnpike roads by steam :—

DR. CHURCH'S STEAM CARRIAGE.

October 6, 1834.—This carriage made a successful trip on Saturday, on the London Road, as far as Stone Bridge. Mr. Harrison, who had charge of it, after making two or three essays in the immediate vicinity of the works, took it out through the Small Heath Gate in good style, passing along the Coventry Road at a rapid rate. It ascended the hills with perfect ease at the rate of full ten miles per hour—in fact they appeared to offer no impediment; and Mr. Harrison is of opinion that no hills to be found on the turnpike roads would oppose any considerable resistance to its progress. On its return an accident happened to one of its gauge cocks which rendered it necessary to blow off the steam and take out the fire, further than which it was not of the least importance. This trial is stated to be decisive of the capabilities of the carriage in the following important respects, viz: as to taking sufficient fuel and water for any requisite distance (neither having been supplied between Birmingham and Stone Bridge), as to the keeping up of a continual supply of steam; and above all, as to its power of ascending hills with facility; and there is not a doubt in the minds of those who superintended and assisted in the trial that it will take heavy loads at great speed upon any ordinary turnpike roads. Not the slightest inconvenience was experienced from steam or smoke, and many horses were passed on the road without occasioning any alarm.

Another attempt was made this year to levy a church rate in the parish of Birmingham. A meeting was held in the Town Hall, on December 15, "at which the Church and Chapel Wardens applied for a rate of four-pence in the pound, to effect some urgent repairs, and to meet the current expenses for the year of the different churches and chapels of the town." The Rev. Thomas Moseley, the Rector of St. Martin's, was in the chair. The show of hands was declared to be

against the rate, a decision which was received with the utmost enthusiasm. Mr. Spooner demanded a poll and scrutiny. The poll was taken, and the negative was given in a much more decisive manner. The number of voters against the rate was 6,689, while only 1,723 voted for it. A decision which virtually settled the question of church rates in Birmingham parish for ever.

On January 19, 1835, a Diocesan Church Building Society was formed for the increase of church accommodation. The amount of donations given up to Feb. 9, was £2,779 14*s.* 2*d.*, and general subscriptions £151 4*s.* 0*d.*

The Turkish Ambassador and suite visited Birmingham on February 18, and spent the following day in going the round of the principal manufactories. We are told that the Ambassador was especially interested in Mr. Charles Jones's "newly-invented patent gun."

On July 14 the foundation stone of the Chapel to be erected in the General Cemetery at Key Hill, was laid by Mr. Paul Moon James, Mr. Thomas Tyndall, and the High and Low Bailiffs, assisted by the Rev. John Angell James. On July 27, we read :—

Lord Brougham arrived at Aston Hall, on Wednesday, from Liverpool. His Lordship inspected the establishment at Soho, and afterwards dined with James Watt, Esq., who assembled a party to meet his Lordship.

The following report records an aspiration which was never realised :—

Birmingham Zoological Gardens.—Prospectus.

Aug. 10, 1835.—The Promoters of this undertaking have the satisfaction to announce to the Public, that upwards of 100 Shares have been subscribed for, and they confidently hope that the advantages to be derived from the existence of so amusing and instuctive a means of recreation, will induce such a number of gentlemen to allow their names to be added to the list as shall enable them speedily to commence operations.

The site suggested for the purpose is a large tract of land situated in Bradford Street, already enclosed by lofty walls, with the whole of the beautiful and extensive Gardens, now occupied by Mr. Horton, Solicitor, in which is a large sheet of water, surrounded by trees and shrubs, which will be given up for the purpose.

Birmingham celebrated the Tercentenary of the Reformation in the manner recorded in the next two extracts :—

September 28, 1835.—At a General Meeting of the Clergy of this town, held on Wednesday last, the following resolutions on the subject of solemnising the Third Centenary of the Reformation were unanimously adopted :—

1st. That as there is manifested throughout the kingdom an intention of solemnising the 4th of October next (falling on the Sabbath) as the day in the year 1535, when the first entire English version and publication of the Bible were accomplished, by Miles Coverdale, Bishop of Exeter, it is their duty to observe that day as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the blessings of the Reformation, and of prayer for the continuance of them.

2nd. That in case no prescribed form be issued by authority for the purpose, the Clergy feel it to be their duty to call upon their respective congregations and parishioners to observe it privately, and that they should make the blessings of the Reformed Religion a prominent feature of their Sermons in the ministration of the day, determined, however, to keep the question entirely clear of every political bias: and lastly,—

That suitable hymns be selected and printed for the occasion, and a cheap medal be struck to commemorate the celebration, to be presented to the Sunday School Children and Teachers. In accordance with the latter part of this recommendation, medals, we understand, have been struck, and hymns prepared to assist in a devout and grateful celebration of the day. There appears now to be no doubt but that the event will be generally celebrated throughout the country, and in many places collections will be made for the distressed Irish Clergy.

October 12, 1835.—The third Centenary of the Reformation, on Sunday, the 4th inst., was generally observed in this town. Sermons appropriate to the day were delivered in the various Churches and Chapels of the Establishment, and in several of the Dissenting Meeting Houses. Congregations so large and attentive have seldom been simultaneously assembled, and the occasion was rendered memorable to the Children of the Sunday Schools by the distribution of medals struck in commemoration of the event.

On July 8, 1836, we have the following record of a work of charity :—

We understand that *two thousand four hundred and twenty* poor persons were relieved at the Town Hall on the 19th ult., from the net proceeds of the late Musical Performances for the benefit of Aged and Distressed Housekeepers.

On April 11, we read that "the first interment in the new public Cemetery of this town took place on Monday last. The Rev. J. A. James officiated."

The pious and noble-hearted Bishop Ryder died this year, and measures were at once taken to give expression to the universal feelings of veneration which were entertained for the venerable Prelate. We quote the report of the meeting held for that purpose :—

THE LATE BISHOP RYDER.

April 18, 1836.—On Thursday last a meeting of the clergy and laity was held in St. Philip's Vestry, in this town, for the purpose of considering the best mode of expressing the universal feeling of veneration and regard for the memory of our late revered Diocesan. The Earl of Dartmouth presided, and among those present were the Archdeacons of Coventry, Stafford, and Salop; James Taylor, Richard Spooner, J. F. Ledsam, and P. M. James,

Esqs.; the Revs. J. Hargreaves, T. Moseley, J. Garbett, R. Kennedy, J. G. Breay, J. Allport, S. Crane, E. Palmer, T. Munns, C. Craven, S. Gedge, and E. Hall; Messrs. Simcox, Whateley, Bedford, Tindal, &c., &c. Communications, regretting unavoidable absence, but expressing hearty concurrence in the object of the meeting, were read from the Archdeacon of Derby, Rev. A. Clive, Dr. Johnstone, and other laymen. Much friendly discussion took place as to the most effective manner of marking the deep sense entertained of the heavy loss sustained by the diocese, and of the grateful affection due to the memory of so excellent a Prelate. The resolutions unanimously adopted include as far as practicable, the different views taken by persons alike anxious to testify their feelings in the warmest and most suitable form. They embrace three objects—*First*, to concur with a previous meeting held at the late Sessions at Stafford, at which Lord Hatherton presided, in the erection of a monumental statue in Lichfield Cathedral, by one of the first sculptors of the age. *Secondly*, to remove, if agreeable to his Lordship's family, his mortal remains from Hastings to the Cathedral. In reference to this point, it was remarked that the statement of his sepulture there being at his own request was erroneous; as, in fact, it is known that his Lordship when living had given a general opinion that a departed Bishop would most fitly slumber "among his own people." *Thirdly*, that any surplus that might remain from the subscriptions should be added to any sums that may be raised for the specific purpose of erecting a church at or near Gosta Green in this Town—thus endeavouring to accord with the final wish expressed by the Bishop, at the close of his last public speech in this place, at the annual meeting of the Diocesan Church Building Society, in December last, such Church to be denominated "Bishop Ryder's Church." The noble chairman remarked with much feeling, that if the deceased Prelate could express his own wishes, as to any permanent memento of himself it would certainly be of this kind. As an Asylum for the Blind was thought to be a more appropriate way of commemorating so excellent a person as Wilberforce, so a Church bearing the name of Bishop Ryder, would be a suitable memorial to an individual who, among his other good works, had been the means of raising many houses of God through the land. And as probably this county would ere long be annexed to the See of Worcester, the Monument at Lichfield and the Church at Birmingham would perpetuate his name in each part of his former diocese. Several contributions having been entered into, the meeting separated.

It has been intimated to us that a number of individuals of this town and neighbourhood, equally desirous with those who attended the above meeting, of contributing towards the erection of a Monument to the memory of the late lamented Prelate in Lichfield Cathedral, are still exceedingly anxious that the proposal to erect a Church in this place, to be called "Bishop Ryder's Church," should not be considered a secondary object merely; and they therefore strongly recommend to the originators of the meeting, that in this district, at all events, the subscriptions for the two objects should be carried forward together, and that persons be allowed to subscribe specific amounts for either purpose.

We are informed that Mr. Hollins, the Sculptor, is on his return from Rome, where he has been studying for the purpose of executing a Bust of the late Bishop; and that in all probability he will, for the accommodation of his Lordship's friends, publish the Casts by subscription.

Miss Abraham contributed the sum of £1,500 towards this object; £1,000 for an endowment, £200 as a fund for repairs, and £300 towards

the erection of the proposed church, "in return for the patronage which she proposes shall be invested in trustees." She also gave £100 to the fund for the intended monument of his Lordship in Lichfield Cathedral.

On August 10 a service of plate was presented to Dr. Birt Davies, "as a lasting memorial of the sense generally entertained of his professional skill; of his active benevolence and charitable exertions in the capacity of Physician to the Birmingham Dispensary and late Birmingham Fever Hospital; and of his kind sympathies and zealous attention, during a period of thirteen years, towards numerous poor patients who have sought and received gratuitous aid: and likewise as a testimony of regret at the disappointment of his just claims to the office of Physician to the General Hospital."

On August 17 the first stone of St. George's Chapel, Edgbaston, was laid by the Rev. Charles Pixell, Incumbent. And on October 24 we have the announcement of Joseph Sturge's visit to the West Indies :—

It is known to many of our readers that Mr. Joseph Sturge, of this town, has for some time past contemplated a visit to the West India Colonies, with the benevolent view of making personal enquiries as to the state of the Negro population, in the hope of obtaining further amelioration of their condition; and that, accompanied by Dr. Lloyd, also of this town, Mr. Scoble, and Mr. Thomas Harvey, he has within the last few days left England for this purpose. Mr. Sturge and his companions sailed from Falmouth on Monday last, in the *Skylark* packet. Previously to his leaving home, a complimentary address, signed by a considerable number of his fellow-townsmen of all parties, was presented to him.

On November 29 the town was visited by a violent hurricane, which committed considerable damage to property, but fortunately was unattended with loss of life.

The year 1837 opens with the record of a death of a very able and useful gentleman :—

January 2, 1837.—It is our painful duty to announce the death of Dr. John Johnstone, on Wednesday last—an event calculated to excite among our readers feelings of deep and melancholy interest. He had practised as a Physician in this town upwards of forty years, and among the members of his profession his name must be placed in the first rank. With deep professional learning he possessed an acuteness of intellect, an insight into character, a decision of mind, and a kindness of manner, eminently valuable in every relation of life, but more peculiarly important in that of a Physician.

. . . . . .

The confidential friend and biographer of Dr. Parr was himself a scholar of no ordinary acquirements, and his biographical memoirs of that celebrated man display sound judgment, refined taste, and classical learning.

On January 28 the *Birmingham Journal* gave a summary of a communication received from Mr. Joseph Sturge, referring to the island of Antigua. That gentleman, it is added, is now at Jamaica, and is expected to remain there until April :—

"As we shall not be able to send our documents home in a suitable state by this packet, our friends will be glad to know what has been the general result of our enquiries during a residence of nearly a month, from personal investigation in different parts of the island, and from information derived from members of the legislature, magistrates, legal and medical practitioners, ministers of the Church of England, and of the Methodist and Moravian persuasions, schoolmasters, merchants, planters, attorneys, overseers, managers, and the negroes themselves.

"We think we may safely say, that the great experiment of conferring at once immediate freedom on 36,000 slaves, has, after two years' trial, succeeded beyond the expectations of those in the colony who were most favourable to the measure. The universal testimony both of the employer and negro is, that the state of things is immeasurably improved. It is true that all the sanguine hopes of those are not fully realised who did not take it sufficiently into account that, in the immediate change from slavery to freedom, the new state of things would long have to contend with the prejudices of the planter on the one hand and of the labourer on the other, against the introduction of those changes which are needful to ensure its complete success.

"The remaining evils (which do not exist where the principles of freedom have been more fully understood, and have been more completely acted upon for a long period) might, we believe, be remedied by a temperate, firm and judicious exercise of authority of the Government at home. One of the most pressing evils is the want of proper provision for the aged and infirm, especially those who have become so since the 1st of August, 1834, for whom there is no legal provision. We hope to speak more particularly upon the principal points embraced in our enquiry when we have leisure to do so.

"12 Month, 14, 1836."

The next advertisement relates to a subject always popular in this town. Since the time of its appearance, Freehold Land and Building Societies have, under the able organising power of Mr. James Taylor, jun., become not only one of the most important of our social and economic reforms, but have given a political importance and influence to their members which has done much to give an improved tone to modern politics. Birmingham is, we rejoice to say, the birth-place of this, as of so many other undertakings for the benefit and elevation of the working classes :—

PARK BUILDING SOCIETY.

January 30, 1837.—At a Meeting of Gentlemen, held at the Clarendon Hotel, on Tuesday, the 17th of January,

It was resolved,—

"That a Society be now formed, under the above title, for the purpose of providing each member with a House and premises on certain lands then mentioned."

The next meeting of the Society will take place at the Clarendon Hotel, on Tuesday, the 14th of February instant, at seven o'clock in the evening, to enrol members.

Any information may be obtained in the mean time on application to Mr. James Ashwin, Share-broker, Cherry-street; or Mr. Hurlestone, Clarendon Hotel, Temple-street.

By order of the Committee,

T. S. HANDS, Secretary.

The subject of Church Rates was once more brought prominently before the public mind :—

TOWN'S MEETING.

Feb. 20, 1837.—The meeting convened by the High Bailiff on Wednesday last, to consider the propriety of addressing the Legislature on the question of Church Rates, has resulted in *two* Petitions on the subject—the one hailing "with satisfaction the prospect of a legislative measure by which the odious impost of Church-rates will be extinguished; and earnestly protesting against any commutation of or substitute for that tax, or any thing short of an entire abolition"—the other "imploring protection on behalf of the Established Church, now threatened with spoliation of her rights and property; deploring that the attempt should receive the countenance of His Majesty's Ministers, in the face of their most solemn obligations, openly avowed by some of them, that it is the bounden duty of the Legislature to provide for the expenses of public worship, and entreating that the Church may be shielded from the threatened aggressions upon her rights, her influence, and her means of usefulness." Both Petitions are now in course of signature; and in addition, an Address is to be presented to the King, reiterating the prayer of the latter. The first mentioned petition is to be presented to the Lords by Lord Brougham, and to the Commons by the Members for the borough, whose names appeared at the head of the requisitionists; and the other by the Earl of Bradford, and by the Members for this division of the county. The Address to His Majesty will be presented by the Earls of Bradford and Dartmouth, and Lord Calthorpe.

A bill for the abolition of Church rates was brought in by the Ministry, and on April 23 the congregation of the Old Meeting House held a meeting, with Mr. J. T. Lawrence in the chair, and adopted a petition to the two Houses of Parliament in its support.

On May 22 this paragraph was published :—

Mr. Joseph Sturge arrived safely at home, *via* New York, on Wednesday last, in good health. He left his friends, Dr. Lloyd and Mr. Harvey, in Jamaica, quite well, on the

7th ult. It is stated that Mr. Sturge's friends, and the friends of emancipation, contemplate inviting him to a public breakfast on as early a day as can be arranged.

A subscription was opened in this month towards the relief of the famishing inhabitants of the north-western coasts and islands of Scotland.

The Princess Victoria's eighteenth birthday on the 24th was kept in Birmingham as a general holiday. The shops were closed, the church bells were rung, and public dinners were given. An address of congratulation was adopted at a town's meeting and presented by Mr. Scholefield; another address from the Loyal and Constitutional Association was presented by the Earl of Bradford.

We have now to record another instance of the artisans taking an active part in public affairs :—

June 5, 1837.—On Tuesday a deputation of the artisans of the town met a number of the merchants and manufacturers at the Public Office, for the purpose of conferring with the latter as to the best mode of obtaining relief under the existing commercial circumstances of the country. Among others the meeting was attended by Mr. Van Wart, Mr. Goddard, and Mr. Harrold, connected with the American trade, in addition to Mr. Meredith, who presided, Messrs. Salt, Hadley, &c., &c. Mr. Brown, the chairman of the workmen's committee, addressed the meeting at some length, and with considerable ability. His observations were listened to with attention. The merchants present admitted the great privations of the workmen, but confessed themselves unable to devise any permanent mode of relief. After a long conversation, it was ultimately agreed that a committee should be formed, consisting of merchants and others, to take into consideration the important object of the meeting, and, if possible, to carry it into effect. The prevailing opinion was, that the existing distress was not attributable to any measures of Government, but to causes unforeseen, and over which they could have no control. A committee being appointed for the purpose already stated, the meeting broke up, in the hope that some plan of immediate and effective relief would be devised. The Committee have subsequently met, and agreed to the following declaration :—

"We, the undersigned bankers, merchants, manufacturers, and traders, and other inhabitants, having been called upon, in a memorial addressed to us by upwards of thirteen thousand of our fellow-townsmen, the workmen of Birmingham, to take into consideration the present state of trade of the town and neighbourhood, deem it our duty, in confirmation of the facts alleged in the said memorial, to declare—

"That for some months past the customary operations of trade have been attended with the severest losses; and the result has been a general want of confidence and suspension of business, which has deprived the labouring classes of employment, and caused among them a state of distress rapidly approaching to starvation.

"That, in such a state of things, every principle of humanity and of prudence equally requires the united and energetic efforts of all classes of the community, for the purpose of obtaining prompt and adequate relief."

On May 22 the following obituary appeared :—

On Saturday last, the Rev. Edward Burn, Minister of St. Mary's in this town, in the 77th year of his age, and the 52nd of his Ministry at that Chapel.

On June 6 a public breakfast was given to Mr. Joseph Sturge, in the Town Hall, "for the purpose of congratulating him on his safe return from the West Indies, and to express the high sense of his unwearied and philanthropic exertions in the cause of negro emancipation." Over five hundred persons assembled to do honour to this good and noble-hearted man.

On the same day a meeting was held at the Public Office, Mr. Richard Spooner in the chair, "for the purpose of considering what measures can be adopted sufficient to relieve the present appalling state of commercial distress."

"*It was Resolved*,—That in the opinion of this meeting the number of unemployed workmen and the consequent distress that now prevails, calls for the adoption of prompt and efficient measures."

Mr. Harris having informed the meeting that a deputation of the workmen of Birmingham had waited upon him, expressing their wish that all classes in the town should co-operate with them in their endeavours to obtain relief;

Resolved,—That Mr. Harris be requested to express to the members of that deputation the deep sympathy entertained by this meeting for the working-classes, and to assure them of its readiness to co-operate with them in any constitutional measure to obtain relief.

The following is an act worthy recording :—

June 12, 1837.—The late Miss Sheldon, of Sheldon, near this town, has bequeathed the following magnificent legacies :—To the Birmingham General Hospital, Dispensary, Blue Coat School, and Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, £1000 each; and, in addition, the interest of £1000 to be applied to the relief of ten poor women who attend regular worship at St. Philip's Church.

The commercial distress continued, and in the meetings held in consequence we first meet with our lately-deceased townsman, Mr. Joseph Corbett. He was then a working-man, in the employ of Messrs. Hammond, Turner, & Son, button makers, and for fifty years he worked for this firm. The nature of the distress, and the measures which were proposed to meet it will be seen in the following report of a meeting :—

COMMERCIAL DISTRESS.

June 19, 1837.—At a Meeting of the Committee of Masters and Workmen, appointed on the 20th of May, to enquire into the causes of the present Commercial Distress, and held at the Public Office, on Thursday, the 15th of June, 1837;

James James, Esq., Low Bailiff, in the chair;

the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

Moved by Richard Spooner, Esq., seconded by Mr. William Garner;

1st. That the alternations of great apparent prosperity and sudden deep distress which have invariably attended the expansion and contraction of the currency, cannot but suggest to every thinking mind, that to our present monetary system is mainly to be attributed the present general and alarming distress.

Moved by Richard Spooner, Esq., seconded by Mr. Joseph Corbett;

2nd. That to compel the industrious classes to apply to the parish funds (who are thrown out of employment by circumstances over which they can exercise no control) is cruel and unjust, and in the end would be found greatly to aggravate the evils we now endure, by compelling many who, at this moment, contribute to parochial rates to become themselves receivers, instead of payers, of those rates.

Moved by Richard Spooner, Esq., seconded by G. F. Muntz, Esq.;

3rd. That this Meeting is unwilling to propose a remedy for the evil, the existence and causes of which it has unanimously declared; but it does not hesitate to say that a remedy may and ought immediatety to be applied, and that it is the imperative duty of the Legislature, without delay, to take measures for the immediate and effectual relief of the present increasing and alarming distress, before it assumes a shape which will make all remedies impossible.

Moved by Mr. Edmonds, and seconded by Mr. Brown;

4th. That the Low Bailiff be requested to communicate the above Resolutions to his Majesty's Ministers, and report to a Meeting of a Committee to be summoned by the Low Bailiff the answer he may receive.

JAMES JAMES, Chairman.

James James, Esq., having left the Chair, and the same being taken by Richard Spooner, Esq.

Moved by Mr. Edmonds, seconded by Mr. P. M. Twells;

That the cordial Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Low Bailiff for his able and impartial conduct in the chair.

R. SPOONER.

Our old friend, Job Nott, the button burnisher, again addressed the operatives on the causes and remedies of the distress, but with little effect.

On June 20, William IV. died; and, on the 26th, Queen Victoria was proclaimed in this town. There was a procession and public

dinner; and the enthusiasm of the people on the occasion was earnest and sincere. It is gratifying to know that from that day to the present time the noble lady, who at so young an age, had to occupy one of the grandest thrones in the world, and to discharge the highest duties which can ever fall to the lot of a human being, has grown in the love, the esteem, and admiration of all her subjects. For "children of our children" may truly say—

"She wrought her people lasting good;
Her court was pure; her life serene;
God gave her peace, her land reposed;
A thousand claims to reverence closed,
In her as Mother, Wife, and Queen."

On Tuesday, July 4, was witnessed the exciting and important ceremony of

Opening of the Grand Junction Railway, Between Birmingham and Manchester.

July 10, 1837.—At an early hour on Tuesday morning, the town of Birmingham was in a state of great commotion and excitement, owing to the public opening of the Grand Junction Railway. Soon after five o'clock the streets leading in the direction of Vauxhall, where the Company's temporary station is situated, were crowded with persons of all ranks anxious to be witnesses of the first public travelling on this most important line of railway communication.

On the Saturday and Monday preceding, six engines and a great number of carriages had arrived preparatory to the commencement of general business; and on the latter day another experimental trip was made by the Directors, bringing two carriages and thirty-six passengers, the whole distance from Liverpool to Birmingham (97¼ miles) in three hours and seventeen minutes. These performances increased the curiosity of the public, and coupled with the novelty of the sight in the midland counties, drew thousands of spectators to the neighbourhood of the railway station. The Company's intended station-house and warehouses, adjoining the London and Birmingham station in the centre of the town, are not yet built, the neighbourhood of Vauxhall is therefore occupied as a mere temporary station. By six o'clock in the morning, the bridge which crosses the railway at its entrance into the station yard, and indeed, every eminence that commanded the least view of the line, was covered with persons awaiting the starting of the carriages. The embankments of the several excavations, and even the valleys though which the railway alternately "winds its way" between Birmingham and Wolverhampton, were likewise covered with admiring spectators; indeed in the neighbourhood of Bescot Bridge, James's Bridge, and Willenhall, adjacent to the iron and coal districts, the crowd was, if possible, still more dense than in the suburbs of Birmingham.

At seven o'clock precisely, the bell rang, and the opening train, drawn by the *Wildfire* engine, commenced moving. The train consisted of eight carriages, all of the first-class, and bearing the following names; The *Greyhound*, the *Swallow*, the *Liverpool and Bir-*

mingham Mail, the *Celerity*, the *Umpire*, the *Statesman*, and the *Birmingham and Manchester Mails*. The train started slowly, but, upon emerging from the yard, speedily burst off at a rapid race. To those who for the first time witnessed such a scene, it was peculiarly exciting, and the immense multitude, as far as the eye could reach, gave expression to their admiration by loud and long-continued huzzas, and the waving of hats and handkerchiefs. Having in some degree escaped the multitude, power was laid on, and from Perry Barr to Newton-road, the speed could not be less than from thirty to thirty-five miles the hour. The carriages are of the most elegant description. Those of the first-class were divided into three compartments, each compartment accommodating six passengers. In the mails, one compartment is convertible into a bed-carriage. The whole of this class are most superbly fitted up, and equal, if not superior, to the great majority of private carriages.

At half-past eight o'clock, a train of the second class set out amidst similar demonstrations of admiration to those called forth by the first, after the departure of which the chief object of attraction was the arrival of the first train from Liverpool.

The foundation stone of Bishop Ryder's Church was laid on the 23rd of August, by the Right Reverend Robert James Carr, D.D., Lord Bishop of Worcester. The following paragraph will be read with interest :—

August 27, 1837.—On Wednesday last, during the assembling of the clergy and gentry who took part in the procession at the laying of the foundation stone of Bishop Ryder's Church, in this town, a very beautiful medallion of the size of life of the late Bishop, the work of our townsman, Mr. Peter Hollins, was exhibited at the Blue Coat School. Many of the Bishop's friends who were present, including the Rev. John Kempthorne, Chaplain to his Lordship when he presided over the See of Gloucester, pronounced the likeness, considering the circumstance under which it was produced (being altogether a posthumous work), a most extraordinary resemblance. It is a profile in low relief, and is intended to form part of the monument to be placed in the parish church of Lutterworth, where this pious and worthy successor of *Wickliffe* was for many years the affectionate and beloved minister.

The sub-committee appointed to consider and report on the causes of the general depression of trade, presented their report on August 24. It stated "that the alternations of great apparent prosperity and sudden deep distress, which have invariably attended the expansion or contraction of the currency, prove, beyond doubt, that to our monetary system is mainly to be attributed the present general and alarming distress." The only possible source of relief was, in the opinion of the sub-committee, "Such a revision of our present law as shall lead to the adoption of a monetary system adequate to the wants of this great and commercial country."

The British Association for the Advancement of Science was invited to hold its meeting for 1838 in this town; but Newcastle carried the day "on account of its having invited the Association to hold an annual meeting there from the first year of its formation." Birmingham had to wait another year for this honour.

On October 9, we read :—

The Rev. John Casebow Barrett, M.A., late of Christ Church, Oxford, and now of Hull, has been presented to the incumbency of St. Mary's Chapel, in this town, in the room of the late Edward Burn.

Here are two deaths which ought to find a place in this work :—

Nov. 6, 1837.—On Wednesday last, after an illness of fourteen days, at his brother's house in Newton-street, Mr. James Dobbs, Comedian, aged 56.

Nov. 20, 1837.—On the 12th ult., at his son's residence, in this town, Mr. Thomas Blakemore, aged 105, father to Mrs. Marrian, of the *Sea Horse*, Buck-street. He formerly kept the old *Bird-in-Hand*, in Dale-end, where he took in this newspaper in the days of Mr. Aris, the original proprietor, whose death stands recorded 76 years ago.

The early part of the year 1838 was consumed in relieving the terrible distress which prevailed in the town. Soup, bread, potatoes, coals, and clothing were supplied with that liberality which is one of the most gratifying traits of the people of Birmingham. Sub-Committees were appointed to enquire, to report, and to act. The cases of extreme poverty which were published were of the most heart-rending kind. The penny subscription which had been raised in recognition of the services of Colonel Wallace at the election, but which he could not accept, was, at his request, applied to this fund; and the gallant Colonel sent a subscription of £5, that he might also "have the satisfaction of contributing his *pennies* to the poor of Birmingham." At the meeting of the Relief Committee, held on March the 12th, it was reported that "190,000 quarts of soup, and 30,000 loaves of bread, had been distributed, at an expense of £1,120, among no fewer than 380,000 inhabitants." The Mendicity Society was actively employed in co-operating with the Relief Committee in alleviating the prevailing distress. In twelve weeks upwards of 1,400 were provided with lodgings, and with 2,800 meals, by this society alone. On March 12, a District Provident Society was formed. "This," says our chronicler, "was one good practical fruit of the attention which has been so humanely and con-

siderately drawn to the condition of our poorer fellow townsmen, and we earnestly hope that the plan will be perseveringly pursued by collectors and contributors.

Queen Victoria was crowned on Thursday, June 28, and the following is a report of the manner in which Birmingham celebrated that memorable event :—

July 2, 1838.—Thursday, being the day of the Coronation, was observed in this town in a manner suitable to the occasion. The Churches of the Establishment were opened for the performance of divine worship, and appropriate sermons were preached; the children of the various Sunday and other schools connected with the several congregations were afterwards regaled with good English fare, and in their respective schools joined their voices in the National Anthem. The children connected with the schools of the Wesleyan Methodists, consisting of about four thousand, accompanied by their Ministers and Teachers, walked in procession to an open space on Holloway Head, and after being addressed by their Ministers, to the delight of all surrounders they sung a hymn and "God Save the Queen," in a very effective manner. The children of Carr's Lane, Ebenezer, and other Dissenting Congregations, were assembled, addressed, and regaled; and the children of the Old and New Meeting Congregations were addressed, and afterwards proceeded to a field at Highgate, where they had refreshments.

At one o'clock the doors of the Market Hall were thrown open, and an interesting sight presented itself of tables most judiciously arranged. and abundantly provided for dining four thousand of the industrious classes, of both sexes, who were admitted by the tickets of subscribers to the fund raised for the purpose. The fare consisted of roast beef and plum pudding, and a quart of ale to each guest. The Hall was most beautifully decorated, and too much commendation cannot be bestowed on the zeal and judgment manifested in the arrangements made by the gentlemen of the Committee. The offices of Stewards were most effectually sustained by respectable inhabitants of the town, in the proportion of one to fifty guests. A Band of Musicians played before and in the intervals of the festive scene. At each end of the Hall a booth was erected, in which the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were stationed; that in the direction of Worcester Street being occupied by the High Bailiff, supported by J. T. Lawrence and W. Chance, Esqrs., Mr. Geach, and Mr. Phillips the Chairman of the Committee of Management, and several ladies were accommodated in this booth. Above the High Bailiff a gallery was erected for the reception of ladies, which was soon filled, as were the various passages between the tables, by spectators of the cheering scene.

At three o'clock, a public procession moved from the Town Hall.

In the evening there was an Illumination, not general, but very good, and such as gave life to the town until a late hour. We regret that we cannot furnish a description of the various devices which were so creditable to the taste and public spirit of all parties.

A Ball, according to announcement, was held at the Town Hall, which was but thinly attended.

Dinners took place at several of the Hotels, at Vauxhall, and at many Public Houses in the town and neighbourhood.

The members and friends of the Loyal and Constitutional Association dined together at the Plough and Harrow, Edgbaston, in number about seventy; Mr. Edward Armfield in the chair. "The Queen," "The Queen Dowager, and other Members of the Royal Family," "Our Glorious Constitution, in Church and State," and other patriotic toasts were introduced by appropriate speeches, and drank with enthusiasm, and the most rational hilarity prevailed. A Band of Musicians occupied the green and played several national pieces. In the evening there was a display of Fire-works on the bowling-green, to which a large company of ladies and gentlemen were admitted by tickets, and the evening concluded by dancing.

The Bells of the Churches rang merry peals throughout the day, the whole proceedings were most harmonious and exhilarating, and such as will be long reflected upon with pleasure. Several thousands of adults entertained with a substantial meal by the liberality of their more opulent neighbours, and the whole passing off without any serious irregularity, was certainly highly creditable to the character of the town. Beyond comparison, however, the most gratifying of all the scenes were those in which, within the limits of the borough, nearly fifteen thousand Children connected with the Schools were enabled to partake of the joys of the day, and to unite their voices in imploring blessings on a reign in which their happiness is so especially involved.

In July a Temperance Conference was held in Birmingham :—

The Town Hall has been occupied on the evenings of the past week, with a Conference of the British Association for the promotion of Temperance. A Meeting of Delegates, consisting of upwards of forty, from London, Ireland, Scotland, the North of England, and other parts, was held on Tuesday, Robert Guest White, Esq., of Dublin, in the chair. The reports from the different scenes of operation presented a considerable increase in the members of the Society. The accounts having been passed, the following resolution was moved and carried :—

"That it is inexpedient for the British Association to enjoin any particular form of pledge upon its branches, further than one, including the general obligation of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks, and the discountenancing the causes and practice of intemperance."

The next two extracts record the visits of distinguished "personages :"—

July 23, 1838.—On Thursday this town was honoured by a visit from his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, who arrived at Dee's Hotel on the evening of that day, and on Friday Mr Collis, being apprised of the presence of the Duke, proffered a view of his establishment, after an inspection of which his Royal Highness proceeded to the Town Hall, where the powers of the organ were displayed by Mr. Hollins. The Royal Duke returned to Dee's Hotel, and proceeded on his route to London.

MARSHAL SOULT'S VISIT.

July 30, 1838.—At three o'clock the Marshal and party, consisting of the Marquis of Dalmatia, the Marquis de Mornay, the Duc de Vicenza, the Duc de Bassano, the Comte de Praslin, M. de Francqueville, and the Marshall's aides-de-camp, Colonel Napier, Admiral Napier, and Charles Manly, Esq., arrived at Dee's Hotel, where a guard of

EDGARTON OLD CHURCH.

honour of the 14th Light Dragoons was stationed, and offered him a salute. The visitors were received by the High and Low Bailiffs, F. Lloyd, Esq., and Mr. G. R. Collis,—visiting first the splendid establishment of the latter gentlemen, thence to Messrs. Serjeant's Gun and Sword Manufactory, which appeared to afford extreme interest to the whole party, and, as a kindred subject to them, led to many enquires. The Papier Maché Manufactory of Messrs Jennens and Bettridge; the Britannia Nail Works of Mr. T. M. Jones; the Proof-house; and the extensive Button Manufactory of Messrs. Hammond, Turner, and Sons, were subsequently visited, and each of the processes led to various expressions of astonishment and of high gratification.

His Excellency was then conducted to the Town Hall, which had been previously and for some hours filled to an overflow by anxious but orderly inmates, who waited with extreme interest the arrival of the veteran visitor, but very judiciously Mr. Hollins entertained the assemblage with an occasional performance on the organ. On the arrival of the Marshal in the Town Hall he was warmly greeted by those assembled. Mr. Hollins performed some pieces on the organ, and after spending some time in this scene, the Marshal returned to Dee's Royal Hotel, where dinner had been provided in the large room.

A very important event is recorded in the two following extracts :—

August 27, 1838.—On Monday last the whole line of Railroad from this town to London was traversed by a train of four carriages, occupied by Directors and Shareholders. The party left the Station, after partaking of breakfast, at half past six o'clock in the morning, and arrived in London at about a quarter past one. An hour and a half was occupied in inspecting the tunnel at Kilsby and other interesting parts of the great work, so that the distance may be said to have been travelled in little more than five hours.

Sept. 17, 1838.—This morning the entire line of Railroad between this and London will be opened to the public. Birmingham will thus be brought within six if not five hours of the capital; it remains only for those in this town, with whom is the power, to prepare such facilities of communication with the heart of the town as are requisite, and vast benefits cannot fail to result to all classes of the inhabitants.

The last month of the year witnessed the consecration of two churches :—

Dec. 3, 1838.—The elegant Chapel, [St. George's,] recently erected at Edgbaston by Lord Calthorpe, with a view to the supplying of the additional accommodation so much required for the purposes of public worship by the inhabitants of that parish, was consecrated by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Worcester on Wednesday morning last. The site of this truly beautiful edifice was the gift of the Noble Lord, and the structure itself was erected by his Lordship at the expense of nearly £6,000, with the exception of £500 bequeathed by the late Mr. Wheeley. Lord Calthorpe, in addition, has very handsomely endowed the building, and provided the communion plate, service books, &c., &c. For the use of the poorer inhabitants two hundred free sittings are reserved; and the remainder are to be rented, according to their various situations, at 20s., 16s., and 12s. per annum.

The patronage of the Chapel, we understand, is vested in the noble donor, Lord Calthorpe, the Ven. Archdeacon Spooner, and Mr. Thompson of London; and the Rev. Isaac Spooner, son of Richard Spooner, Esq., has been appointed the first incumbent.

CONSECRATION OF BISHOP RYDER'S CHURCH.

Dec. 24, 1838.—On Tuesday last the interesting ceremony of publicly dedicating this edifice to the service of Almighty God was performed, in the presence of a large and most respectable congregation, by the Lord Bishop of Rochester.

On January 16 died, at Paris, in his 64th year, Charles Lloyd, the poet, the friend of Coleridge and Wordsworth. He was the eldest son of Charles Lloyd, the banker of this town. His poems, though breathing a tender grace, and possessing a heart "blood-tinctured, of a veined humanity," are now rarely read.

Religious discussions were now much in fashion. The late Robert Owen and his friends were busily engaged in disseminating the tenets of Socialism, and Birmingham did not escape the visitation. On Monday, January 14, 1839, a discussion between the promulgator of the doctrine of man's irresponsibility and Mr. Brindley took place at the Society of Arts. Dr. Bell Fletcher was in the chair. The opponent of Socialism was also an antagonist to phrenology. After a series of lectures delivered by him on this subject in the month of January, the following resolution was passed :—

"That this meeting regards Mr. Combe's 'Constitution of Man,' which Mr. Brindley has satisfactorily proved denies man's moral responsibility, the efficacy of Christ's atonement, and the spiritual influences in the work of regeneration, as a highly dangerous work, and increasingly dangerous in exact proportion with the talents of the author."

An Anti-Corn-Law Meeting was held in the Town Hall, on Monday, January 28, to consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament for the repeal of the Corn Laws. It was rather a curious assembly. The Hall was crowded, the vast majority present being Chartists. Messrs. P. H. Muntz, B. Hadley, and T. C. Salt, who were opposed to the conveners of the meeting, on the ground of the utter uselessness of petitioning Parliament as then constituted, were received with continued cheers, while Messrs. G. Edmonds, T. Weston, the Rev. T. M. M'Donnell, and the members of the Town Council who were in favour of the petition were greeted with "the most discordant yells, and marks of the greatest disapprobation." An amendment was carried by an enormous majority. The lost petition was afterwards submitted to the town for the signature of those who were in its favour. A petition from the Mayor and Council on the same subject was presented to the House of Lords by Lord Brougham, on Friday, February the 8th.

"Our Shakspere Club" will read the following paragraph with interest :—

April 29, 1839.—The Shakspearian Club established in this town celebrated the anniversary of the birthday of Shakspeare on Tuesday last, at the Rose, in Edgbaston-street; and although it was the first meeting of the society, the company was numerous and respectable, and it will, no doubt, ere long be second to no club of a similar description.

The new Independent Chapel in Wheeler-street was opened on the 1st of May; and on the same day was laid the first stone of the new Unitarian Chapel and Sunday Schools on New-Hall Hill.

The Birmingham Town Mission held its first General Meeting on June 11; and even this charitable society was disturbed by the Chartists. The meeting was in the Town Hall, and amidst much disturbance the report was read. The following extract giving the conclusion of the meeting is curiously illustrative of the year which was distinguished by the Chartist riots. Fussell was one of the leaders in the Bull Ring meetings :—

Fussell, who was in the side gallery, then obtained a hearing, and said he trusted they would not interfere with the business only so far as it interfered with them. If anything was introduced into the proceedings which would injure the people's cause he was there and would defend it. The only true religion was the religion of good-will and christian order. If the middle-classes opposed them, he said, as he had always said, they would be fully justified in repelling that body by force—(cheers).

The Rev. T. East then presented himself to the meeting, but was received with much disapprobation, and although he persevered in briefly addressing the audience, he was compelled to resume his seat amidst the greatest uproar and confusion. The succeeding resolutions, which will be found in another column, were formally moved and adopted, and a vote of thanks having been passed to the chairman, the meeting was dissolved. The subscriptions at the door amounted to nearly £20. The respective speakers, in retiring from the platform, were loudly hissed by the intruders, who afterwards held a meeting, and separated about half-past nine o'clock.

The next two extracts record the death and merits of a man to whose labours the reader has been greatly indebted :—

July 15, 1839.—On Tuesday last, at his residence, Camp-hill, near this town, aged 49, Mr. Thomas Knott, a Proprietor, and for twenty-five years the Editor of this Newspaper; and one of the Governors of King Edward's School, of which important Institution he was Bailiff for the present year.

It is our painful duty to announce the decease of Mr. Thomas Knott, a Proprietor, and for twenty-five years the Conductor of this Newspaper. Upright and disinterested in motive, modest and unobstrusive in temper and demeanour, he was a most affectionate relative and a warm and steady friend; and the extent of his benevolence in the amelio-

ration of human sorrow, and the relief of human wretchedness, will only be fully known in that day when there is nothing secret that shall not be revealed. In the walks of common life it would be difficult to point out an individual whose career had been marked with greater usefulness and beneficence, or whose character had secured more universal esteem. In most of the public institutions of the town he had long borne a very efficient part, and of some of them he might almost be considered the originator. At the General Hospital few persons attended so closely for many years. To the interests of King Edward's School he devoted his zeal, judgment, and diligent attention. At the Deaf and Dumb Asylum he was from the first a valuable member of its committee. The Botanical Gardens owe their existence to the associated labours of himself and his lamented friend the late Dr. Darwall. Of that important institution, the Lichfield and Coventry Diocesan Society, the success may in a great degree be imputed to his exertions, in conjunction with those of his attached friend the present Rector of St. George's; and though he lived only to see its infancy, he united with his accustomed liberality in the formation of the Society for erecting Ten New Churches in this town. The Public Library, the Society of Arts, in brief, almost every institution in the place, which has for its object the interests of religion and public benefit, experienced the advantage of his judicious counsel and effective support. Whenever the vicissitudes of trade and the dispensations of Providence brought distress upon the poorer classes, he was not only with the foremost to relieve, but he generally took the least ostentatious and most laborious office. Among those whose occupations are of a professional kind, few individuals have ever devoted so much of their time, their energy, and their resources to the benefit of those among whom he was placed. As Editor of Aris's Gazette, his steady and undeviating support of constitutional principles was united with the utmost fairness and impartiality towards those who differed from him, and from its pages were excluded every approach to anything that could wound private feeling, or injure private character; for the firm and unshaken integrity of his own mind, the result of sincere christian principles, was combined with the kindliest feelings of good nature and forbearance to all men. His health had for some considerable time past declined; but on the Saturday evening previous to his dissolution he was attacked with paralysis, which terminated his existence on Tuesday last, at the age of 49. His loss will be most keenly felt by a large number of all ranks and classes in this town, and to whom in the hour of adverse fortune or bereavement he promptly acted as the unobtrusive adviser and anxious friend. Truly may indeed those who knew him best assert that, as "to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and keep himself unspotted from the world" was practically his warmest wish, so, as near as human being may, that he attained to it.

The end of July was marked by a succession of rainy days which produced very destructive floods. On the 31st, the Rea overflowed its banks, and the whole of the meadows were inundated, and a greater part of the land under water. The streets in the vicinity of Deritend, and particularly Cheapside, Moseley Street, and Rea Street were covered with water, and were impassable for several hours. A large number of cattle were drowned, and the loss in property was very great.

The effort to build ten new churches in the town only partially succeeded. The first fruits of this attempt at Church Extension was St. Matthew's, in Great Lister Street, and the foundation stone was laid by the Bishop of Nova Scotia, on October the 12th. On the 25th and 28th of the same month was held the celebration of the Centenary of Wesleyan Methodism. "On the former of those days which, in conformity with the recommendation of the late conference, was devoted to religious services, public meetings for prayer were held in all the chapels, and the attendance upon those occasions was very numerous, the proceedings being conducted with great solemnity and devotion."

In this year, notwithstanding the great opposition of the majority of the people, the Government Police were introduced into Birmingham. A meeting was held on the subject in the Town Hall, on November 25th, Mr. P. H. Muntz, the Mayor, in the chair. A resolution condemning the proposal was passed, and the Committee appointed to prepare an address to the Queen and a petition to Parliament against the bill.

The Queen was married to Prince Albert on February 10, 1840; and we read on that day :—

February 10, 1840.—The only public celebration appointed to take place in this town of the august ceremonial which will render this day memorable in the annals of Great Britain, will be the entertainment of the poor inmates of the Workhouse, and a holiday at King Edward's School. Whether in consequence of the change to an earlier day than was anticipated, or from whatever cause, there has been no assemblage of the inhabitants to concert measures for public observance of it. On enquiry of the authorities we find that no steps have been taken, and that no requisition has been addressed to them on the subject. Each loyal subject, therefore, on his own sphere will cordially exercise the hope which must be felt in the breast of every true Englishman that the great Disposer of all things may over-rule the important event of this day to the happiness of our Sovereign and her people.

The way in which the day was observed is thus reported :—

February 17, 1840.— On Monday, in the absence of any organised plan, there was a strong desire manifested by the inhabitants of this town to celebrate the marriage of Her Majesty and Prince Albert. The Linen-Drapers, in consequence of a previous arrangement, and other tradesmen, determined to close their establishments, an example that was very extensively followed, and in a short time the streets became filled with a population evidently seeking some means of uniting in an appropriate expression of joy. The managers of the Post Office, the Excise Office, the Governors of King Edward's Grammar School, and others commenced preparations for an Illumination, but time did not permit

this mode of expressing loyalty to become general, though some spirited manufacturers, among whom should be mentioned Messrs. Jennens and Bettridge, presented a splendid display. The poor of the Workhouse and the children of the Asylum were liberally regaled, and everything passed of with the utmost order and decorum.

This month was marked by a Bank Failure :—

February 24, 1840.—Some sensation was produced in the town on Thursday, in consequence of current reports confirmed by a positive announcement at the window of the Borough Bank [in Bull Street] in this town, that the Directors found themselves under the necessity of suspending their payments. A meeting of the Creditors of the Company was held on the following day, at Dee's Royal Hotel, when a Committee consisting of two proprietors and a creditor of the concern, together with the solicitors of the company and a respectable accountant of the town, was appointed to investigate the state of affairs, and to prepare a balance sheet. The immediate occasion of the stoppage of the Bank was the suspension of one of the Directors, who had created liabilities to the full extent of the capital employed; but it should be known that though this was the case the business of the Bank was very limited; and as the Bank did not issue their own notes, the inconvenience to the public will be inconsiderable.

The Jewellery trade was very bad this year, and once more royalty was requested to set the fashion for the good of trade :—

February 24, 1840.—At the Levée on Wednesday last, a petition was presented to the Queen by Mr. Dugdale and Mr. Scholefield, from the Jewellers of this town, which was most graciously received. For some months past this branch of trade has been in a very depressed state, which is the more to be regretted, as it is less dependent upon foreign demand than on fashion at home. Should the Queen condescendingly listen to the prayer of the memoral, the effect will be to improve an important branch of trade, and benefit a great number of persons. It is right to add, that Mr. Scholefield and the County members, Sir E. Wilmot and Mr. Dugdale, rendered most active and valuable assistance in promoting the object of the memorialists.

A meeting was held on March 30, at which a provisional committee was appointed to take immediate steps for forming a society for the protection of Young Females. On the 31st of the same month was laid the foundation stone of St. Mark's, the second of the ten churches "intended to be erected in this town." The land was presented by the Governors of King Edward's School.

The button makers of the town again appealed to royalty to wear buttons :—

April 13, 1840.—A deputation of Button-makers from this town was introduced to Prince Albert, at Buckingham Palace, on Friday last, by Joshua Scholefield, Esq., M.P., for the purpose of presenting a congratulatory address on the occasion of the Royal Nuptials, and of requesting the Prince to patronise some of the specimens forwarded to him, in order to ameliorate the present depressed state of the trade. The deputation

was graciously received, and His Royal Highness was pleased to return the subjoined reply:—I receive your congratulations with sincere pleasure, and I beg you to believe that I am deeply interested in all classes of Her Majesty's subjects.

On June the 3rd the young lunatic, Oxford, fired at the Queen. Birmingham thus expressed its loyalty and its thanks for the escape of Her Majesty:—

June 22, 1840.—One universal feeling of indignation and horror appears to pervade all classes of Her Majesty's subjects throughout the kingdom, at the recent attempt on the life of Her Majesty and her illustrious Consort. Meetings have already taken place or are convened in almost every town and village throughout the empire, to congratulate the Queen and Prince Albert on their happy escape from the hand of the assassin. In this County, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, and the adjoining Counties, congratulatory addresses have been adopted during the past week, for presentation to Her Majesty, and in numerous places similar expressions of loyalty are already in course of active preparation.

ADDRESS OF CONGRATULATION TO HER MAJESTY.

June 22, 1840.—In compliance with a requisition presented to P. H. Muntz, Esq., the Mayor, a public meeting of the inhabitants of Birmingham was convened in the Town Hall on Friday, for the purpose of testifying the heartfelt gratification of all classes of the community at the providential preservation of Her Majesty and her illustrious Consort from the recent atrocious and treasonable attack upon her sacred person. The Mayor took the chair shortly after eleven o'clock. In the organ gallery were assembled many respectable inhabitants of the town, although the meeting was but very thinly attended, and the floor of the Hall as well as the side galleries were by no means filled.

June 22, 1840.—On Monday morning a very full meeting of the Clergy of this Borough was held in St. Martin's Church. The Rural Dean, the Rev. John Garbett, took the chair, and commenced the proceedings by explaining that he had considered it his duty to fix the earliest possible day after receiving a requisition from the Clergy, to take into consideration the propriety of presenting an address to the Queen on her merciful deliverance from the hand of an assassin, one of her own subjects, whose twice uplifted arm was directed to her destruction, averted only by the merciful providence of Almighty God.

This year was distinguished by the beginning of another noble work of charity—our second great Hospital. The interest taken by the people in this work is proved by the following paragraph:—

June 22, 1840.—Thursday last being the day appointed for laying the first stone of the Queen's Hospital, in this town, by Earl Howe, the Lord Chamberlain to the Queen Dowager, not less than twenty thousand persons were assembled to witness the interesting ceremony. Notwithstanding, however, this immense concourse of spectators no accident occurred during the whole of the proceedings; but one feeling of generous and laudable humanity appeared to pervade every class. A public breakfast in connection with the proceedings of the day, took place at the Town Hall, at twelve o'clock, and was attended by upwards of four hundred and fifty guests.

The history of this noble undertaking does not fall within the period embraced by this work.

§ 3. EDUCATION AND LITERATURE.

The year 1832 begins with the report that the newly-erected Schools of Deritend and Bordesley, connected with the Established Church, were opened for the reception of Scholars on the first of January. A dinner was given to the children on the 4th, in commemoration of the event. On January 9 we find the following paragraph :—

FRENCH CIRCULATING LIBRARY, 6, ST. PAUL'S SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM.

Messieurs C. V. Martin and H. Anger beg to acquaint the Inhabitants of Birmingham and the neighbouring towns, that they have opened a Library for the circulation of the most modern and popular French Works.

☞ Terms and Catalogues to be had at their Residence.

Mons. C. V. Martin will resume his Lessons in the French and Italian on the 25th inst.

Our next extract relates to a gentleman who has laboured earnestly and well in the cause of education. His later career has, it is true, been marked by a few eccentricities; but these should never make us forget the debt of gratitude which we owe to one who, years ago, laboured so earnestly and arduously for the good of the town :—

February 13, 1832.—It gives us pleasure to state, that Mr. Gutteridge's first Lecture on Anatomy, as connected with the Fine Arts, delivered at the Rooms of the Society, in New Street, on Wednesday last, was very numerously attended. The second Lecture is announced for Wednesday evening next.

Lodge's famous Gallery of Historical Portraits was in the town this year. The following is the contemporary record of the exhibition :—

June 18, 1832.—The Exhibition of Lodge's Gallery of Historical Portraits is now open for gratuitous inspection, at the Large Room of the Society of Arts, in this town. The object in opening this Exhibition is to display at one view the whole series of Illustrations proposed to be executed in *Lodge's Monthly Library of Portraits and Memoirs;* and it is, perhaps, the most splendid assemblage of Portraits of the illustrious and eminent personages of British history which has ever been seen in this country. In the collection will be recognised very beautiful and faithful copies from well-known pictures belonging to the collections of several of the neighbouring nobility, the originals of which have been exhibited within the last few years at the Society's Rooms; and among them are Henry VIII. by *Holbein*; Sir Kenelm Digby, the Marquis of Granby, by *Sir Joshua Reynolds*; Charles I., by *Vandyke*; Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia; Queen Henrietta Maria; William I.; Lord Paget, &c. Many very exquisitely-finished Drawings exhibited are highly creditable to the taste and talents of our townsman, Derby. The second monthly

part of the work, just published, containing portraits of the Earl of Strafford, the Countess of Sunderland, and Cardinal Wolsey, forms an excellent specimen of the publication, whether with reference to its pretensions as a work of art, or as a valuable and condensed medium of historical and biographical information.

On February 8, 1836, was published the following paragraph :—

A numerous meeting of the Articled Law Clerks of this town was held at the Public Office, on Friday evening last, for the highly commendable purpose of forming themselves into a Society for mutual legal improvement.

The next extract refers to the Royal School of Medicine :—

June 20, 1836.—On Saturday last, Mr. Sands Cox had the honour of a long interview with the Under Secretary of State for the Home Department, in reference to the plans and arrangements of the Royal School of Medicine in this town. The Royal College of Physicians of London are about to make important changes. It is intended no longer to require an Oxford and Cambridge education. A curriculum of study for their licence will be shortly issued; and Provincial Schools will be enabled to qualify students for examination to practice from that body. An impression of the Anatomical and Surgical Prize Medal, executed by Mr. Wells Ingram, has been presented by Earl Howe to His Majesty, and was most graciously received.

The following is an interesting quotation :—

June 20, 1836.—It is proposed by the gentlemen constituting the Committee for the formation of the "Midland Natural History and Archæological Society," to purchase the Museum of Mr. Weaver, who is to be appointed Curator, with an annual stipend—to institute courses of Lectures—to form a Library of valuable works on every department of Natural History—to promote the establishment of Societies for the cultivation of Natural History in the surrounding towns—and to open Communications with similar Institutions already formed. To carry all these objects into full effect, and to enrich the existing Museum with specimens in Zoology, Botany, and more particularly with a perfect series of the Mineralogical productions of the mining district, which it does not at present contain, a sum of at least one thousand guineas and an annual income of at least one half that sum, it is calculated, will be required. The former it is proposed to raise by the sale of two hundred shares at five guineas each, and an annual subscription of one guinea; and the remaining portion of the income by the sale of tickets to subscribers, on the plan at present pursued by Mr. Weaver, and by the admission of non-subscribers. From the latter source it is anticipated that not less than one hundred guineas per annum will accrue to the funds of the Society. It is intended for the shareholders to enjoy privileges not possessed by the non-subscribers. We hope and trust that Birmingham, the centre of a wealthy and populous district, peculiarly rich in natural productions, more especially in the mineral kingdom, will not incur the indelible disgrace of allowing Weaver's beautiful Museum, collected at an incalculable sacrifice of time and labour, to be transferred to other hands, and enrich the collection of some neighbouring society.*

On Thursday, July 28, 1836, was publishsd the first number of the "Birmingham Herald, Midland, Commercial, Literary, and General

* Mr. Weaver's Collection now forms part of the Museum at the Queen's College, Paradise Street.

Advertiser." The proprietors and publishers were T. B. Wright and Chris. Dain.

On September 5 was announced :—

No. 1 of the Birmingham Botanic Garden, or Midland Floral Magazine, containing accurate Delineations, with Botanical and popular Descriptions of Plants cultivated in the Stove, the Green-house, or the open Garden, and remarkable either for their beauty, their rarity, or the singularity of their structure. Conducted by G. B. Knowles, Esq., M.R.G.S., F.L.S., &c. (Corresponding Member of the Medico-Botanical Society, and Professor of Botany in the Royal School of Medicine), and Frederic Westcott, Esq., Honorary Secretaries of the Birmingham Botanical and Horticultural Society.

The following relates to an important reform in the curriculum of King Edward's School :—

FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

October 10, 1836.—It will be known to many of our readers that the attention of the Governors of King Edward's School in this town has been called to the great importance, if possible, of anticipating by some years the advantages contemplated in the plan of a school for teaching the modern languages and the arts and sciences, concurrently with the classical education now so efficiently conducted by the present Masters. It is evident from the subjoined minute of the Governors that a plan having this object in view has been drawn up by the highly-talented individual who now, happily for the town, presides over the instruction of this school. These views are so accordant with the wants of the rising generation of Birmingham, that it will not create surprise that persons of various parties have been led to unite in expressing themselves anxious for such an object. Two of our townsmen, Mr. W. Chance and Mr. J. M. Knott, having formed similar views of the education required at the Free School, feeling themselves deeply interested, and that their sentiments must be in accordance with those of their fellow townsmen, spontaneously took up the subject on Monday last, and as the best means of attaining the end, drew up the following Memorial to the Governors, which, unitedly with Mr. Charles Shaw and Mr. Clement Ingleby, who on being applied to promptly rendered their aid, they submitted to such of their townsmen as the limited time before the meeting of Governors, which they found was to take place on the following Wednesday, permitted them to accomplish :—

"The undersigned, deeply impressed with the importance of the education at present afforded at the Free Grammar School, in Birmingham, being connected with the cultivation of Modern Languages and of the Arts and Sciences, and considering that so desirable an object will be best attained by uniting, in an additional building, upon the same site and under the same superintendence with the Classical School, the projected English School, for which provision is made under the recent Act, they are induced to urge this change of plan upon the Governors.

"The undersigned are persuaded, that such modification of the arrangements would be highly beneficial to the inhabitants of the town. It would not only bring the English School into operation earlier by some years, but the combination would meet the peculiar wants of Birmingham as a manufacturing and commercial town, while the great end of

the Founder, in providing the means for promoting the higher departments of learning would also be attained in a manner suited to the changed circumstances of society."

It is right to mention, that these gentlemen called first upon Thomas Pemberton, Esq., the High Bailiff, who at once entered warmly into the subject, and kindly gave his aid and influence to the furtherance of an object so important to his neighbours of all classes. Numerous signatures were in a few hours affixed, comprising some of the most respectable and influential names of the town of various parties, including the two Members for the Borough. The memorial being handed to the Bailiff of the School, Mr. John Walker, a short time before the monthly meeting of the Governors (at which time it was understood the subject would, by previous arrangement, come under consideration) was most courteously received, and soon after the termination of the meeting the following minute was handed by the Secretary to the gentlemen who presented the memorial:—

"1836, October 5. At a Meeting of the Governors of the Free Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth, in Birmingham, in the County of Warwick,

"The Bailiff reported that he and the Secretary had this morning been waited upon by Mr. Chance and Mr. John Knott, who presented the memorial now read."

The consideration of Dr. James's Letter having been resumed, it was unanimously resolved—"That instruction in the Modern Languages, Arts, and Sciences in the Classical School, in addition to the present system of education pursued there, does appear to this meeting to offer many and great advantages.

"It is ordered, that the above resolution be referred to a Committee to consider and report upon the means of carrying the above resolution into full effect, and that three be a quorum.

"It is ordered, that copies of the above resolutions be transmitted by the Secretary to Mr. Chance and Mr. Knott."

We congratulate or readers upon the real harmony which these documents prove to exist between the sentiments of the town and those of the governors, and on the readiness with which the wants and the wishes of the inhabitants have been met, evidencing, as it does, the favourable views entertained of the object in that body. It should be borne in mind that had not this change in the course of things taken place, the contemplated improvements of education with the funds of the foundation could not possibly, on the most sanguine calculation, have come into operation until the year 1842, or the succeeding year; while upon the proposed plan, the end may be effected in about twelve months, so that, in point of fact, one generation earlier of the youth of the town will, if the plan be perfected, partake of the benefits of the English and Foreign department of the school. A very large sum will be saved in the building, independently of the economy in blending, as far as possible, the present and extended objects of the school, and a much larger amount of rental will be at the disposal of the Governors for adding to the advantages of the principal school, and for spreading schools in different parts of the town to meet the wants of the rapidly increasing population. With reference to this point it affords us much pleasure to state, that the Governors are about to commence an elementary school in Aston Street, which will be followed by others in different parts of the town. It is perhaps desirable also to explain to such of our readers as may not be acquainted with the subject, that the proposed addition to the arrangements for the Grammar School will comprise all the

elements of a sound commercial and philosophical education, together with instruction in the foreign languages.

We have now the record of a very useful scientific invention :—

December 5, 1836.—It may be interesting to know that during the late gale which visited this town, the force and direction of the wind was so accurately noted by a self-registering Anemometer, the invention of Mr. Follett Osler, which that gentleman has lately presented to the Philosophical Institution of the town. By this instrument a constant registry is kept not only of the direction, but also of the force and velocity of the wind. A self-registering rain gauge attached to the instrument, notes the quantity of the rain, and likewise the precise moment when it falls. On the morning of Monday, the 28th ult., at a quarter-past eleven, the wind blew for about three minutes from the north-west, with a force equal to 16½lbs. on the square foot; and on the following day, at noon, for nearly half-an-hour from the north-west, with a force nearly equal to 12lbs. on the square foot. In the published tables of the forces of the wind, a pressure of 17lbs. on the square foot, or a velocity of sixty miles per hour, is characterised as a most violent hurricane.

In the beginning of 1837 the *Gazette* was published in an "extended and improved form," and the editor availed himself of that opportunity to give the following very interesting HISTORY OF THE GAZETTE.

TO OUR READERS.

January 9, 1837.—The Birmingham Gazette having at the commencement of the new year assumed an extended and improved form, it may be useful for our guidance, as well as interesting to our readers, to present them with some reminiscences of a publication which has so long enjoyed the liberal patronage of the public.

The first number was published by the original proprietor, Mr. Thomas Aris, on the 16th of November, in the year 1741, under the title of "The Birmingham Gazette, or the General Correspondent," at the price of three-half-pence, and bearing a government stamp of one half-penny. By the following address inserted therein, it appears that the publication was anticipated by another newspaper, which circumstance was referred to by Mr. Aris, in the following terms :—

"That the public may not look on me as an opposer to Mr. Walker, as, by the insinuation in his paper he would have me supposed, I will beg leave to state the case.

"In the month of May last, I came to Birmingham in order to settle there as a Printer and Bookseller, and with the advice of my friends, took the house I now live in, but it being then inhabited, I could not conveniently enter till Michaelmas last, so went again to London; during which time Mr. Walker, having got information of my intention, came here and printed a Newspaper before I left London; therefore, I appeal to the public, to whom he has made his address in all the papers he has yet published, to determine who is the opposer. And those gentlemen who are pleased to encourage me, may be assured that no pains shall be spared to make the paper agreeable, having settled the best correspondent I possibly could in London for that purpose.

T. ARIS."

Both papers appear to have been carried on in opposition, until July, 1743, when by the subjoined address it will be seen that a compromise took place between the parties; and the Gazette first appeared under the distinctive title of "Aris's Birmingham Gazette," the price, in accordance with the announcement to that effect, being raised to two-pence.

"*To the Readers of this Paper.*

"Gentlemen,—I am very sensible that to raise the price of any commodity is always both unpopular and hazardous; and even was it not so, the obligation you have laid me under, by your generous encouragement of this paper, would be sufficient to deter me from any attempt to advance the price of it, was it in my power, consistent with my own preservation, to act otherwise.

"But when I assure you it is not so, and that I have already lost a considerable sum by selling it at three half-pence, I flatter myself that no gentleman would take it amiss if I can't continue it at a price which, instead of serving, can only injure me.

"That a great deal of money may be sunk in a very little time by a publication of this nature cannot seem strange to any one who considers that out of every paper one half-penny goes to the stamp office, and another to the person who sells it; that the paper it is printed on costs a farthing; and that consequently no more than a farthing remains to defray the charges of composing, printing, London newspapers, and meeting, as far as Daventry, the Post, which last article is very expensive, not to mention the expence of our London correspondence. The truth is, I had no design originally of attempting the printing a Newspaper for three half-pence; but another paper being published at that price by Mr. Walker, obliged me to submit to the same terms, though now we are both sufficiently convinced that we were in the wrong, and think it high time to drop the opposition, and unite both papers in one. Therefore, for the future, there will be but this paper printed, which will be in conjunction; and as the above is a true state of the case, I hope that those gentlemen who have hitherto honoured me with their favours, for which I take this opportunity of returning my thanks, will not think the advance of one half-penny unreasonable. But in order to make some amends for the additional half-penny, I shall for the future, inlarge the pages in such a manner as to contain a greater quantity of news than at present; and the public may depend that no pains or expence shall be spared to render this paper as useful and entertaining as possible."

The Gazette continued in the hands of Mr. Aris until his death in 1761, from which year it was in the possession of various members of his family until 1789, when it became the sole property of Mr. Thomas Pearson, by whom it was conducted until his decease in 1801.

The next address, which we are induced to lay before our readers, appeared on the 2nd of January, 1804, when the copyright of the paper ceased to be the property of the family of the original proprietor, having been sold to Messrs. Knott and Lloyd, by the Executors of Mr. Pearson. At this time the paper was published at sixpence, and the stamp it bore was that of three-pence halfpenny. The address is as follows:—

"Knott and Lloyd having now become proprietors of this Gazette, respectfully solicit a continuance of that very liberal patronage with which it has so long been honoured, assuring the public that in its future management, every exertion shall be called forth to render it fully worthy of their continued approbation and support.

"The Editor, on his part, possessing the experience of nearly seven years' attention to the business, during the two last of which he has been sole conductor, presumes to hope he may not be found incompetent to his situation, *firmly attached to the constitution of the country, and superior to every consideration of party, it shall be his study to conduct this*

Gazette upon those principles of loyalty, independence, and integrity, for which its late worthy Proprietor rendered it eminently conspicuous.

"In soliciting a continuance of the favours of Advertising Friends, Knott and Lloyd have to point out the superior advantages of the very numerous, extensive, and established circulation this Gazette so fortunately possesses—a circulation unequalled in the Midland Counties—and to promise every attention to the interest of the parties, by a regular and accurate insertion, and by as full a display of the Advertisements as the limits of the paper will admit."

On the decease of the late Conductor in 1814, the management devolved upon the present Editor, whose earnest desire has been studiously to adhere to the same principles of "loyalty, independence, and integrity" that had governed his predecessors. From the commencement, it had been contrary to the plan of the paper to attempt to bias its readers by any leading article; it was preferred rather to give with fairness, information on both sides of disputed questions. In the contentions which formerly divided Whig and Tory, the Editor has known no difference, each party rightfully claiming the advocacy of constitutional principles; and it was only when a power arose in this town (we refer of course to the Political Union), which, from its mode of action, threatened to overturn all social order among us, and to interfere in an unconstitutional manner with the settled institutions of the country, that we at all swerved from the course so long pursued. We then felt it imperatively our duty to oppose ourselves to so dangerous and disorganising a compact, and by perseveringly correcting the daring misrepresentations of its promoters, we endeavoured to prevent the kingdom at large being misled or intimidated by their inflammatory effusions and boastings. We reflect with satisfaction on the stand we made against this body, fully convinced that in so doing we performed a becoming duty to our country, and carried with us the approbation of the moderate and reflecting of all parties.

During the last thirty years the Gazette has been several times extended in size; and it is a curious fact that the present sheet is three times as large as it was in 1804, and above four times that of the original publication in 1741. Our motive for the present enlargement, as we stated last week, has arisen from a desire to extend our means of communicating foreign and domestic news, as well as local information and commercial intelligence; while at the same time we shall prevent the possibility of disappointment to our advertising friends, to whom we are happy in this opportunity of making our sincere acknowledgments for their long continued preference.

We have now some further information on the proceedings of the Governors of the

FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Feb. 27, 1837.—We stated a few weeks since that the Governors of King Edward's School had very nearly completed a plan for the enlargement of the system of Education pursued at the school, and that the plan was at that time under the consideration of the Lord Bishop of Lichfield, one of the official Visitors, as required by the Charter. We have now the pleasure of adding that his Lordship, after a minute examination of the scheme submitted to him, has expressed his entire concurrence in the views of the Governors, with a proviso that they shall be carried into effect without infringement upon the paramount object of Classical Education; and it will be observed that notice of an

application to the Court of Chancery, in furtherance of the intentions of the Governors, appears in this page.

Under the proposed new Scheme, Masters are to be engaged to teach the French, German, Spanish, Italian, and such other living Languages and modern Literature as it may be thought beneficial from time to time to introduce.

Masters will be engaged to teach Mathematics and the higher branches of Arithmetic.

Schools are to be established in which will be taught English Literature, Grammar, the elements of Composition, Sacred and Profane History, and Writing and Arithmetic.

Drawing and Architectural Design will also be taught by well qualified Teachers.

Provision will be made for the introduction of Lectures on Chemistry, Mineralogy, Mechanics, Natural and Experimental Philosophy, &c., with appropriate apparatus.

It is intended to extend the term of continuance in the School to a more advanced age, in favour of young men who may desire to take degrees at the London University.

It will not be necessary that those boys who attend the English Schools should study the Classics.

It will devolve upon the Head Master to give instruction in the higher branches of English Literature, in addition to that which he now gives in the learned Languages.

He will also have the general direction and superintendence of the combined system of instruction which it is proposed to adopt in the new school.

We congratulate our fellow-townsmen on the liberal and comprehensive views of the Governors in proposing the introduction into the School of so enlarged and complete a system of instruction which, while it meets the wishes and wants of this most important manufacturing and commercial district, will not interfere with the system of Classical Education prescribed by the Royal Founder. The announcement cannot fail to be highly gratifying, more especially so to that numerous and influential body of inhabitants by whom a memorial was some time since addressed to the Governors, and whose desire has been even surpassed by the scheme we have now the satisfaction of making generally public.

The following extracts record the progress of the measure for improving this noble foundation:—

April 10, 1837.—In consequence of the transfer of this Archdeaconry from the diocese of Lichfield to that of Worcester, the enlarged scheme of education intended to be pursued by the Governors of King Edward's School in this town has been submitted to the Lord Bishop of Worcester for his advice; and we are happy to learn that the plan has received his Lordship's full concurrence. Under the proposed new system the school-rooms at present erected in New Street will accommodate upwards of five hundred boys, and there is ample space upon the same site to erect an additional school-room should it be hereafter required. An elementary school for boys and girls, on the same foundation, is in progress in the new street leading out of Aston Street, in the midst of a dense population; and a second is about to be commenced in Cottage Lane, near to the Sand Pits.

We have satisfaction in laying before our readers the following report of proceedings in the Court of Chancery on Friday last, connected with King Edward's School in this town :—

"Court of Chancery. Before the Lord Chancellor, in the matter of the Birmingham Free Grammar School.

"Mr. Jacob and Mr. Richards on the part of the Governors of this School moved, upon a petition which had been presented to the Court, for a reference to the Master to ascertain whether it would be for the benefit of the Charity to apply to Parliament for powers to introduce into the Grammar School a more enlarged system of Education, by appointing Masters to teach, in addition to the Classics, Modern Languages, the Arts and Sciences, &c., in the present School Buildings in New Street, instead of founding a separate School for that purpose, as required by the Act of Parliament under which the Charity is now regulated.

"Mr. Bacon appeared for the Bishop of the Diocese, and Mr. Stevens for the Masters of the School.

"The Lord Chancellor directed the reference as prayed."

July 17, 1837.—The Free Grammar School Bill having passed both Houses of Parliament received the Royal Assent on Friday last.

On August 2 Dr. Warneford's generous donation to the School of Medicine and Surgery was announced :—

The Rev. Dr. Warneford has munificently presented to the School of Medicine and Surgery in this town the magnificent donation of 1,000*l.*, the interest or dividends upon which are to be awarded annually for the best Essay, by a medical or surgical Pupil of the Institution. "On the Attributes of God, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and manifested in the structure of man, from demonstrations of surgical and medical science; and on religion being the best foundation of medical and surgical practice, and affording the best prospects of professional success."

The following report of the annual meeting of the Mechanics' Institution shows the progress of popular education, and also how politics just now were introduced into all questions :—

January 15, 1838.—The Annual Meeting of the Mechanics' Institution took place at the Town Hall, on Thursday evening, Mr. James James in the Chair. A very encouraging statement was made of the progress of the members, particularly in those departments which have reference to the business of life and the useful arts. Some models and drawings were exhibited, which were highly creditable to the producers. It appears that £500 has been raised towards the intended building for the use of the institution. The meeting was addressed by the Chairman, by Dr. Booth, Dr. Palmer, Mr. Abel Peyton, the Low Bailiff, and other gentlemen. Towards the close of the evening attempts were made to give a political and party direction to some of the proceedings by Messrs. M'Donnell, Salt, and Edmonds, but they were promptly suppressed by the vigilance and firmness of the Chairman, and by the ready replies of Dr. Booth. The whole eventually passed off as such important meetings should do, with a very favourable impression on the minds of those present as to the benefits derivable from this useful institution. We shall be happy to find that it meets with increased encouragement.

Our next is an interesting announcement :—

February 5, 1838.—We sincerely congratulate the public that Weaver's valuable Museum of Natural History will be preserved entire to the town and neighbourhood. Through the exertions of Mr. Sands Cox, arrangements have been made to connect the whole with that belonging to the Royal School of Medicine and Surgery, and the two combined cannot but form one of the most interesting and unequalled collections in the provinces.

A very useful Society commenced its labours this year. The following is the first reference to the

BIRMINGHAM EDUCATIONAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

February 26, 1838.—On Tuesday last a highly respectable meeting of this Society was held at the Public Office, the High Bailiff in the chair. At the commencement of the proceedings, Mr. Ryland, one of the Secretaries to the Society, stated that as yet the Committee had been unable to prepare a written report, but he had received instructions to intimate to the meeting that by means of local agents, and the assistance of Mr. Wood, they had succeeded in visiting the Schools in the greater part of the town : that gentleman was present, and would state the conclusions he had arrived at. Mr. Wood then rose, and detailed to the meeting the result of the very laborious and careful examination he had made into the system of instruction pursued in the charity and other Schools in this town—the number of the schools and scholars—the character of the education imparted—and the moral influence it might or might not possess upon the minds of the children. He began by observing that in prosecuting this very important enquiry, he had been anxious to arrive at correct information and legitimate conclusions, so that he should avoid being the medium of conveying false or erroneous impressions. He had not been able to draw up a written report of the particulars he had obtained ; but he had that morning sketched out a rough draft of the number of schools he had visited, and the number of scholars they contained. Mr. Wood then read the following General Summary of Schools visited, February 20, 1838 :—

SCHOOLS.

NUMBER.	Description.	BOYS.	GIRLS.	TOTAL.
155	Dame Schools	1,074	1,189	2,263
103	Common Day Schools	1,368	1,492	2,860
36	Superior Schools	364	458	822
294	Supported by Parents	2,806	3,139	5,945
4	Infant Schools	266	154	420
14	Public and Charity Schools	357	730	1,087
312	Total Day Schools	4,429	4,023	8,452
24	Evening Schools	273	142	415
336	Total Day and Evening Schools	4,702	4,165	8,867

In addition to the above, particulars of upwards of forty Sunday Schools has been obtained, with an equal number of Scholars in attendance.

The next three extracts relate to King Edward's School, and are all important facts in the history of that foundation :—

May 28, 1838.—At a special meeting of the Governors of King Edward's School in in this town, held on Monday last, the Rev. James Prince Lee, M.A., one of the Assistant Masters of Rugby School, and formerly Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Craven Scholar in that University, was elected to the Head Mastership, in the room of the Very Rev. the Dean of Jersey. On the same day, John Abbott, M.A., Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge, was appointed Mathematical Master on the same foundation.

June 25, 1838.—King Edward's School closed for the Midsummer vacation on the 14th instant, and on the following Wednesday Dr. Jeune left town to take upon him his new and elevated duties as Dean of Jersey. On the morning preceding his departure the Very Rev. Gentleman met a numerous body of his late pupils in the school-room, for the purpose of receiving at their hands a piece of plate, as a memorial of grateful respect and attachment. The testimonial, which consisted of an elegant silver tureen, having been placed on the front of the Doctor's desk, he was warmly greeted on his entrance, by the boys, one of whom, Master Bache, proceeded to read a farewell address.

August 20, 1838.—The Governors of King Edward's School have resolved upon electing Masters to teach English Literature as soon as the close of the long vacation in the Universities will render an advertisement availing for proper candidates. We understand they have also decided upon electing French and other masters to carry out the scheme approved of by the Court of Chancery, for the enlarged system of education about to be adopted. They have recently elected Mr. Edward Oxenbould and Miss Annie Corbett to be Master and Mistress of the new Elementary Schools at the Parade.

On November 30, Mr. James Montgomery, the poet, delivered the first of a course of Lectures on the English Poets, in the Theatre of the Philosophical Society.

On January 28, 1839, a meeting was held "to consider the important object of extending and improving national education, in accordance and connection with the Established Church."

The meeting was attended by many of the Clergy and by a number of influential laymen, Archdeacon Spooner presiding. Among the gentlemen present was T. D. Ackland, Esq., a member of the Committee of Inquiry, appointed by the National Society, who entered into a full and clear exposition of the views of that Institution, and of the means by which it was hoped to carry those views into general operation. Previous to the close of the proceedings a Provisional Committee was formed, to further the important object under consideration.

The next extract reports the progress of the Mechanics' Institute :—

March 11, 1839.—The Mechanics' Institution has at last accomplished that which the want of funds has so long delayed, namely, the adaptation of a building to its use. The Committee could not have done better, either as regards the situation (Newhall Street), or the building itself which is admirably arranged. All the various departments are now

concentrated, and the means are afforded for carrying them on in a spirited manner. The news and reading Room fills up what has long been a *desideratum* in the Institution. The room itself is, with one exception, the best in town, and the selection of papers and periodicals is well made. The Class Rooms are numerous, well ventilated and fitted up, and the Museum will prove a considerable attraction. The Library is extensive and will be open every evening. If the Committee continue to act with the same vigour which now characterises their proceeding, continued success cannot fail to attend their efforts.

On April 10, the Elementary School for Boys in Meriden Street, one of the Branches of the Free Grammar School, was opened. The friends of education were now busily engaged in preparing to receive the British Association. On April 15, this paragraph was published:—

It will be observed that the arrangements for the due reception in this town of the Association for the advancement of Science have been commenced in good earnest, and we doubt not will be carried into complete and successful operation. An extensive Local Council, including a large body of professional and scientific individuals in the surrounding district, have been nominated, and a numerous meeting took place at the Philosophical Institution, on Wednesday last, for the purpose of electing sub-committees and determining upon some of the necessary regulations. The Earl of Dartmouth, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association and Chairman of the Local Council, presided over a highly respectable assemblage of gentlemen of all parties and professions, and among whom were several members of the Association from a distance.

The meeting of the Association in Birmingham was the commencement of those National and Universal Industrial Exhibitions which have since made so much noise in the world. The first of the kind ever held was on this occasion, and it has been the parent of many children who have surpassed their progenitor in nobleness and grandeur. The immense variety of Birmingham manufactures suggested the idea and made it of comparatively easy accomplishment. It was therefore arranged to show the visitors to the town, at the meeting of the British Association, what the skill and ingenuity of the Birmingham artisans and mechanics could produce. The main objects of the Exhibition were:—

1st. To present, in one view, the various stages through which the principal articles manufactured in this district have to pass, commencing with the raw material.

2nd. To make known the value of any recent improvements in the arts and manufactures.

3rd. To collect together any curious specimen occurring in practice, whether in mechanics or chemistry, which may lead to the suggestion of further improvements in the application of science to practical purposes.

In some one of these objects we presume that most manufacturers must feel an individual interest, and will therefore contribute as far as they can to the success of the exhibition.

On August 26 we read :—

MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

This town for the last few days has presented a scene of increasing animation, particularly in the neighbourhood of King Edward's Free Grammar School—the principal room of that edifice being reserved as the place of reception for members on their arrival, and for purposes connected with the comfort of the visitors. The noble room kindly assigned by the Governors for the purpose of exhibiting models and specimens of machinery and manufactures is crowded. The Committee in the several departments display the utmost activity, and everything indicates a successful and extremely interesting meeting of the Association.

And again on September 2 :—

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

The business of this Association commenced in Birmingham on Saturday last, by a meeting of the General Committee in the Library of King Edward's School, and was resumed this morning at Eleven o'clock. The Presidents of the various Sections opened their meetings at the different Section Rooms soon after that hour, and the papers which were read, and of which a condensed account is added, were many of them extremely interesting. The meetings were not, however, so numerously attended to day as was expected, but the numbers increased on each succeeding morning; and it was estimated that on Wednesday upwards of eight hundred members of the Association had arrived in town, exclusively of the numerous strangers from the neighbouring counties, who were attracted to witness the proceedings.

The exhibition was so successful that it was resolved to continue it after the departure of the Association. "We are happy," says the *Gazette*, "to find that preparations have been made for transferring the beautiful collection of Models of Machinery and Specimens of Manufacture, exhibited during the last week in King Edward's School, to the Shakespeare Rooms, in order that the public may be enabled to inspect them at a trifling expense.

The success of the meeting of the Association exceeded the general expectations. The number of members who attended it exceeded 1,400. The receipts previously to the meeting were £425, and during the meeting £1,032. Seventy-three new life members were admitted in the course of the proceedings.

The exhibition was removed to the Shakespeare Rooms; and several of the pupils of the Machanics' Institute were selected to explain the collection to visitors. It had only been opened a few days when an event occurred which caused the deepest sorrow to all. On September the 7th, while conversing with the money-taker at the Exhibition of Works of Industry and Art, then open at the Shakespeare Rooms, New

Street, Mr. Daniel Wright was seized with apoplexy, and died on the spot. His name and memory will be revered by all who knew him. His useful life had been spent in teaching, for which he was peculiarly well qualified. Of a gentle and loving disposition, he won the affection of all his pupils. He was at one time the master at the Protestant Dissenting School, then in Park Street; and Charles Reece Pemberton was one of his pupils. When the latter heard of his old teacher's sudden death, he said, "I owe more to Daniel Wright than I do to any other man except my father." There are many still living who can say the same. "At the time of his death," writes Mr. G. J. Holyoake, also one of his pupils, "he was conductor of the Educational Classes of the Birmingham Mechanics' Institute. In him each of his pupils lost a father and a friend. They marked, in some measure, their sense of his loss by the erection of a Tablet over his last resting place, in the Old Meeting House Yard. If ever teacher was mourned by those he instructed, it was Daniel Wright. The good he did was great; but it was private, silent, and ungarlanded: so it lived, and so it died."* The following is a copy of the inscription on the Tablet:—

In memory of Daniel Wright, who died September 7th, 1839, aged 61 years. Many years conductor of the classes in the Mechanics' Institute in this town, the Pupils and Friends of whom have erected this tablet to evince their high esteem for his memory.

The writer of this record was also a pupil of Mr. Wright, and here bears his grateful testimony to the noble qualities of his teacher. Some years after the death of Mr. Wright the following tribute was written, and he may, perhaps, be pardoned for inserting here the following

IN MEMORIAM.

I.

Another unknown great one gone;
Gone from this world of toil and care:
Struck suddenly and unaware,
His noble tasks complete and done;
His battles fought and victories won.
O, master spirit, rich and rare,
We shall not meet thy equal anywhere!

II.

O Master, Teacher, Father, Friend!
Our grief forbids our words of praise,
The glowing tribute Love would raise.

* A Sketch of the Life and a few of the Beauties of Pemberton. By G. Jacob Holyoake. p. 11.

Thy blameless life has reached its end ;
Our tears with our thanksgivings blend,
As we recal thy noble ways,
Thy earnest labours and thy faithful days.

III.

O, ne'er shall we behold again
The sweet smile playing on thy face,
Lit up with love and manly grace,
As thou the poet's glorious strain,
Or Euclid's problems didst explain
To anxious students in that place,
Whose joys no after troubles can efface.

IV.

But better still it was to see
Thy eyes with loving-kindness bright,
More brightly beam, as beamed the light
Of truth in minds so dear to thee
As all thy pupils were. Ah me!
No more shall we receive delight
From thy dear voice defending truth and right.

V.

For he prepared no sterile feast ;
Nor the dry bones of knowledge gave ;
But served a banquet rich and brave ;
And learning in bright robes he drest ;
And gave to all his richest, best.
And deftly mingling gay and grave,
He taught with earnest care, and manners suave.

VI.

Not facts alone, but what gives life
To facts, he taught. His gracious mind
The teacher with the friend combined.
With Wisdom's richest maxims rife,
He sought to fit us for the strife,
The cares we in the world should find,
With purpose strong, and manliness refined.

VII.

Aye ardent for the right and true,
And loving freedom more than gold :
Sweet as a child, as martyr bold,
He did the work he had to do,
In singleness of heart ; of few
Can, mid such labours manifold,
The record of a life so pure be told.

VIII.

His life was lovely, and his death
Was lovely as his life; he fell
While at his daily task; his knell
Was rung by loving hearts, whose faith
Is strong in all he did bequeath;
Who for his wisdom loved him well,
And for the love that in his heart did dwell.

IX.

O, good gray head to us so dear!
O, smiling face so sweet and bright!
O, gentle heart so true and right!
We bless thy memory and revere
Thy life and name: from year to year
They grow more precious in our sight,
A joy in woe, and in the darkness, light.

The rage for exhibitions had now set in, and the committee of the Mechanics' Institute, unhappily, resolved to hold one. On September 9 the following item of news was published :—

The Committee of the Mechanics' Institution are now engaged in making preparations for an extensive exhibition of objects illustrative of the fine arts, experimental philosophy, manufactures, &c., &c., and the encouragement they have already received by the varied contributions forwarded to them, show that the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood are fully sensible of the advantage to be derived from such an undertaking.

On December 23 we read :—

The extensive exhibition at the Mechanics' Institution in this place was opened to the public on Tuesday last; it has already been visited by a very numerous and respectable company, to whom it afforded the highest gratification.

Encouraged by the success of this Exhibition, the committee expended its profits, and a large sum of money besides, in preparing another for 1840. It was not successful, and one of the best institutions for popular education ever established in this town was destroyed. It was not able to survive this terrible burden, and in the year following the Exhibition, the Birmingham Mechanics' Institute, which had been doing an incalculable amount of good since the year 1826, had to succumb to debt. In 1843 the Polytechnic Institution was founded, which in its time was unsuccessful. The place of both these institutions is now admirably filled by the Birmingham and Midland Institute, the foundation stone of which was appropriately laid by the late Prince Consort, on the 22nd of November, 1855.

§ 4. AMUSEMENTS.

The celebrated Paganini visited us in February, 1832, and "caused a great influx of strangers to the town. At Dee's Royal Hotel, we understand, the orders received for bed and sitting rooms were far more than double the number the house would accommodate, and that the extensive stabling and coach-houses attached were not equal to the reception of the numerous equipages which in consequence arrived there." The prices charged at the theatre, to listen to this wonderful one-string performer, were, Boxes 7s.; Pit 5s.; Gallery 3s.; and it was scarcely possible to obtain admission even then.

The theatrical season, like every thing else, suffered from the all-absorbing political excitement; and the notices of performances were few and far between. On September 24 we read :—

> It will be observed by the theatrical announcement of the present week, that the attractive play of the Hunchback is to be performed this evening, and that the well-known author, Mr. Knowles, will appear in his character of Master Walter. The talents of Miss Ellen Tree are also put in requisition to give the fullest effect to the performance. On Wednesday we notice the appearance of our old and esteemed friend Bellamy, Manager of the Bath Theatre, who pays us another visit after an absence of two years; and on Monday of Mr. and Mrs. Wood, the celebrated vocalists.

On January 31, 1833, a concert was given at the Theatre in aid of the Lying-in-Hospital, realising over £230. The regular theatrical season opened on May 26, with Mr. Macready in Virginius. The company was also a good one, but it is recorded that "the house was indifferently attended." During the season Mr. and Mrs. Wood appeared in the opera of the Barber of Seville; Mr. Sheridan Knowles and Miss Ellen Tree were engaged for a few nights, and played in the Wife and other of Mr. Knowles's dramas. On July 23 the celebrated Paganini commenced a three nights' engagement. In September Miss Inverarity and Master Mangeon, "the celebrated American Young Roscius" appeared. On the 21st of October Paganini gave a farewell performance "previous to his final departure for the Continent." He was assisted by Mr. and Miss Watson and Miss Wells. In November Miss Kelly invited the attendance of the admirers of the drama to her

attractive entertainment, entitled "Dramatic Recollections," at Dee's Royal Hotel. In December Mr. Mathews was "At Home" at the Theatre, and presented to his friends "The fourth volume of his Comic Annual."

In 1834 Miss Macfarren, "a new candidate for public favour," made a very successful *début* at our private concerts, on April 15. She sung, it is said, "with great sweetness and expression."

The Theatre opened under new management, and Messrs. Fitzgibbon and Wightman became the lessees. A change was also made in the prices of admission. The boxes were divided into Upper and Lower, the former being charged 3s. instead of 4s., and the Pit was reduced from 2s. 6d. to 2s. The season opened on July 7. The house was newly decorated, and greatly improved in appearance. Mr. C. Kean appeared during the week, "representing the line of characters which obtained for his father unrivalled celebrity as an actor." Mr. Balls and Miss Ellen Tree appeared in the School for Scandal. A great theatrical disappointment signalised the season, the record of which we quote :—

THEATRE ROYAL, MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11 AND 13.

August 4, 1834.—Mademoiselle Taglioni having engagements with Monsieur Laporte, of the King's Opera, precludes the possibility of her appearance in Birmingham before that time.

☞ In consequence of the enormous and tremendous engagement of "One Hundred Pounds" per night, which has been entered into with "the two first Dancers in Europe," the Managers at the instance and advice of the fashionable public, and to meet the wishes of all parties, have made a slight variation in the prices of the Theatre for those two nights.

The Prices of Admission will therefore be as follows:—Lower Boxes, 4s.; Upper Boxes, 4s.—both equal; Pit (as formerly), 2s. 6d.; Gallery, 1s. 6d.

THEATRE ROYAL.

August 11, 1834.—The Managers have finally concluded an engagement at 130 Pounds per Night, with Mademoiselle Taglioni, Madame Giubelei, and Monsieur Silvain.

Madame Taglioni did not come!—

Great disappointment was experienced on Monday evening last, by the non-appearance of Taglioni, at the Theatre, in accordance with her engagement. Severe indisposition appears to have been the cause—in confirmation of which a letter from the lady herself, and a certificate from her medical attendants were printed and circulated.

In October, Mr. C. Kean was again engaged, and appeared in a round of characters. Lord Byron's Tragedy of Sardanapalus was produced during this engagement, and proved a great success.

In this year was commenced the first of those Christmas Festivals, in the Town Hall, which have become annual. On December 26, two performances of Sacred Music, including the Messiah, were given. At the morning performance the charges were, Galleries, 8s.; Floor, 5s.; for the evening, 6s. and 3s. 6d. "The profits arising out of the above Performances are to be paid over to the Town Hall Committee, to be appropriated towards the re-payment to Mr. Lloyd of his outlay of a thousand Pounds, as one of the Sureties for the erection of the Hall, and to liquidate, at the discretion of that Committee, such Tradesmen's accounts as remain unpaid, from circumstances over which the Commissioners have no control."

Early in 1835 Mr. West's Equestrian Troupe appeared at the Theatre. We have the following notice of one of the performances:—

February 16, 1835.—The splendid Dramatic Spectacle of Mazeppa attracted numerous and respectable audiences to the Theatre during the past week, and the flattering reception it has met with on each successive night must be highly gratifying to the Manager, to whom much credit is due for the admirable manner in which the entire piece is got up. Mr. West's fine Equestrian Troop are seen to great advantage in the Tournament, in which there is introduced a combination of gorgeous scenery and dresses, investing the pageant with a vivid and dazzling appearance, and rendering the scenic display peculiarly effective. It will be seen that Mazeppa, together with the novel entertainment of "Raphael's Dream," is announced for repetition this evening.

The regular season opened in April, and amongst the Artistes engaged to appear we find the following famous names:—Madame Vestris, Mrs. Anderson, (Madame V's sister,) Mr. Hooper, (from Madame Vestris's Royal Olympic Theatre); Mr. T. P. Cooke, Theatres Royal, Drury Lane and Covent Garden; Mr. Wade, ditto ditto; Mr. Charles Kemble, Mr. Charles Kean, Mr. Macready, Miss Sherriff; Messrs. Browne, King, and Gibson, principal Pantomime Company, from the Adelphi Theatre; and the celebrated Indian Juggler, Ramo Samee. Mrs. Stirling was then a member of the stock company, and was an especial favourite. She is described in 1835 as "an actress of highly popular talents." How much these talents were appreciated we may learn from the fact that on her benefit, which took place on Friday, December 4, the receipts exceeded £240.

The not very successful managerial career of Mr. Fitzgibbon came to an end in 1835, and in 1836 the Theatre passed into the hands of Mr. Armistead. The season opened on April 4, with the "highly popular drama called Victorine." Mrs. Stirling in the part of the heroine. On the 18th we read :—

The Theatre, since its reopening under ths spirited and judicious management of Mr. Armistead, has been patronised by full and respectable audiences. It will be seen that a splendid Oriental Spectacle is to be produced this evening, with new dresses, scenic representations, &c. The piece is entitled Sadak and Kalasrade; or, The Waters of Oblivion; and it drew crowded audiences at Liverpool for *two hundred nights.*

On the 25th The Wandering Minstrel was played for the first time in Birmingham. Jem Bags by Mr. Wright. In May The Jewess was produced. It was "admirably got up, the dresses and scenery" being "of the most gorgeous description." On October 31 the following interesting paragraph was published :—

It will be observed that Mr. Pemberton, the well known Lecturer upon Shakspeare, has kindly consented to perform the character of Macbeth at our Theatre on Friday evening next, in aid of the Building fund of the Mechanics' Institution; and that to give the best effect to the celebrated choruses, a portion of the Choral Society have been engaged. Mr. Dobbs, it will also be observed, announces a variety of entertainments for his benefit on Wednesday.

In December we had an Interlude of a local character, never acted here and "called The Brummagem Volunteers; or, Birmingham in 1796. Coster Pearmain (a regular *Bonksman*, was born at West Bromwich, loves every thing but his Wife, and determines to be a soldier) Mr. Wright; Tummas Appletree (his friend, a native of Brummagem, and a resident in the Rope-walk, one to whom a shilling is a stranger, and a decided enemy to flattery) Mr. Webb." It was produced on the 16th.

In January, 1837, Signor Bertollotto's celebrated exhibition of Industrious Fleas attracted large audiences. In February Mr. Edward Farmer, "a theatrical amateur," made his first appearance at the theatre. In June the once famous Tenor, Mr. Templeton, accompanied by Miss Sherriff, appeared in a series of operas. On July 13 Mr. Yates, Mrs. Yates, Mrs. Honey, Mrs. Fitzwilliam, Mr. O. B. Smith, Mr. Buckstone and Mr. John Reeve, commenced a three nights' engagement. The prices were raised for this occasion; and every playgoer reading the names of this extraordinary company will "wish he had been there to

see." The "London Company" were followed by Mr. Vandenhoff and Mrs. Sloman. In August Madame Vestris and Mr. Charles Mathews once more paid us a visit, during which was played, for the first time, that matchless comedian's petite comedy "He would be an Actor." Notwithstanding the talent engaged, the management of Mr. Armistead was not successful and came to a disastrous end, as told in the following paragraph :—

August 28, 1837.—In consequence of non-fulfilment of the terms of the lease, and of non-payment of the rent by the manager, the Trustees of the Theatre, on the part of the Proprietors, took possession of the premises last week. This act was resisted on behalf of Mr. Armistead, and five persons were taken into custody while attempting to regain possession during the night of Sunday. The parties were charged with forcibly entering the theatre, and the circumstances were investigated at the Public Office on the following morning. The sitting magistrate, Mr. Lloyd, decided that the proprietors had obtained legal possession ; and on the understanding that the manager would consent to give up all future claim, the defendants, upon entering into their own recognizances, were ordered to be discharged. At the close of the proceedings, application was made to Mr. Barker, the Solicitor to the Proprietors, for the use of the Theatre for a performance in aid of "the distressed workmen," on the evening of Friday. The request was subsequently granted, and the performance took place. The house was pretty well filled; and a correspondent writes us, that by way of acknowledgment "three groans were given for the tories."

The Theatre was opened for a short season on the Saturday following the Musical Festival, under the management of Mr. Clarke, and before it closed such players as Madame Vestris, Charles Mathews, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Charles Kean, and Mrs. Ternan appeared.

In February, 1838, Mr. Ryan announced that he had made arrangements for the erection of a permanent Amphitheatre, in Bradford Street. It was erected and used for several years as a circus ; it is now converted into the Circus Chapel. On March 4 a once famous amateur, Mr. Joseph Smith, appeared at the Theatre Royal, in William Tell, for the benefit of the suffering poor. He was assisted by Mr. J. C. Onions, an amateur dancer, and by Mr. Edward Farmer. Colonel Wallace granted the use of the band of the Fifth Dragoon Guards. The public were informed that great care would be taken to have the Theatre well aired.

On April 16 the Theatre opened for the season, under the direction of Mr. Munroe, with Mr. M. H. Simpson as Stage Manager. The company included some names which have since become to Birmingham

playgoers as "familiar as household words:" they were Mr. and Mrs. H. Webb, Mr. and Mrs. W. Rignold, and Miss Le Batt. The season opened with, for the first time in Birmingham, The Pickwickians, and the immortal Sam Weller was taken by Mr. H. Hall.

On April 23 the prices of admission were lowered to the present charges,—3s., 2s., 1s., and 6d. During the season, we had, in May, Mr. and Mrs. Gratton (late Miss Ryan), Mr. Montague, and Mr. Wright.

In June we had that extraordinary Dwarf, the Gnome Fly; or, "the Man—the Baboon—the Fly"—Hervio H. Nano. In July Mr. W. Farren, "after an absence of fifteen years," performed a round of his best parts; and on the 9th of the same month The Lady of Lyons was played here for the first time; a Mr. Balls personating that very questionable hero Claude. In September, "the Man—the Baboon—the Fly" was with us again, and was the cause of a most disgraceful theatrical riot, which will be best narrated by the contemporary chronicler:—

October 8, 1838.—A disgraceful riot took place at the Theatre in this town, on Monday night last. It appears that a dispute had arisen between the Manager and Signor Hervio Nano, with reference to a pecuniary demand of the latter in a settlement which took place on Saturday. Hervio Nana at the time when his presence was required for his part on the stage, was seated in one of the boxes of the Theatre, and on being applied to, in an audible voice refused to take his part unless a settlement was made to his satisfaction. The Stage Manager explained that there was no claim existing on the part of the complainant, as a full settlement had been made with Mr. Yates, of the Adelphi, to whose company the Signor was attached. An attempt was made to remove Nano forcibly from the box, and in the scuffle the latter passed over into the pit and on to the stage, and in the course of the struggle was aided by some of the audience. From the stage he proceeded again to the boxes. After another attempt on the part of the Manager to proceed with a different piece, Signor Nano addressed the audience, and being so advised, proceeded to the green room, soon after which a scuffle was heard on the stage, and Nano, having raised the curtain, was seen struggling with several persons. A rush was made by some of the audience from the pit and boxes, but to no avail, as the subject of sympathy did not re-appear. Hereupon the occupants of the gallery, having given notice of their intention to those assembled in the pit to clear away, began to tear up the benches of the gallery, and to throw them into the pit, breaking the chandeliers and whatever came in the way of the missiles, the havoc and confusion continuing until the lights were extinguished.

At the Public Office, on Thursday and Friday last, the above riotous proceedings were the subject of long investigation. On the first-mentioned day, Mr. Simpson, the Stage Manager, charged Hervio Nano with an assault, which after a lengthened hearing was dismissed. The defendant was then charged with disturbing the audience, and instigating

others to outrage and violence; and depositions having been taken, a warrant for his apprehension was granted, and being subsequently bailed, he appeared to answer the charge on the latter day. After a long examination of witnesses for the prosecution and defence, it was agreed that the defendant should enter into sureties to appear at the Sessions, to answer any charge that may be made against him, and having done so to the extent of £50, Mr. Simpson was bound over to prosecute. Mr. Edmonds defended the accused, and Messrs. Suckling and Greatwood appeared for the prosecutor.

On October 11 and 12 Mr. Braham appeared, and delighted crowded audiences with his matchless singing. He was followed by Mr. Templeton, who appeared on the 15th, as Elvino in "La Sonnambula." Mr. Butler, the "celebrated Tragedian," came next. During the season a lady amateur appeared several times, sustaining such parts as Juliet and Elvira; but we have no record of her success or failure. On November 9 Mr. Thompson took his benefit, on which occasion "he introduced the statue of Nelson, a copy from the one in the Bull-ring, but in white, to resemble marble; it was a beautiful *fac-simile*, and drew forth continued applause from all parts of the house."

The manager, Mr. Munro, made his first appearance on December 7, for the benefit of his stage manager, Mr. Simpson. He performed Falstaff, in King Henry the Fourth, and Miss Allison played Lady Percy.

The year 1839 opened with theatre and amphitheatre.

At Ryan's Circus, in Bradford Street, the Battle of Waterloo was performed with great pomp and splendour. At the Theatre Mr. Templeton and Miss Atkinson appeared on January 7, in the opera of Cinderella. In the notice of the performance of the after-piece, the Turnpike Gate, we read that "Charles Bland sang and acted with great spirit," that Mr. Simpson as Crack was good, and that "H. Webb, who is now the established favourite in low comedy, also deserves great praise." In the same month Mr Buckstone appeared. On February 11 Mr. Braham began a week's engagement; and on the 18th Mrs. Honey appeared in Giovanni in London. On March 4 we read:—

To-morrow (Tuesday), for the first time in this Theatre, an entire new Drama, written and arranged from the celebrated work of "Boz," and prepared for dramatic representation by Edward Stirling, Esq., entitled Nicholas Nickleby.

On Wednesday a Burletta, to conclude with Gustavus, or the Masked Ball, in the last Scene of which will be given a Grand Masquerade. Parties taking lower Box tickets are

entitled to admission at the Stage or Lobby doors. Masks, Dresses or Dominoes to be had, on application to Mr. Simpson, or Mr. Wadds, at the Box Office.

On Friday, Oliver Twist.

In March Mr. Ducrow and his famous stud of horses attracted good audiences. On April 29 Mrs. W. Rignold played the character of Virginius; and in the first week in June Mr. Cowle made his first appearance at this theatre in Hamlet; Mr. Conway playing Laertes, and Miss M. A. Crisp Ophelia. Mr. Wright was also performing this month, as Simmons, in the Spitalfields Weaver. On the 17th Van Amburgh, his lions, tigers, and leopards, made their first appearance, and for six nights their united talents drew crowded houses. On July 2 Mr. C. Mathews and Madame Vestris appeared as Charles Surface and Lady Teazle in the School for Scandal. On the 23rd Taglioni appeared for one night only, when the prices were raised to 6s., 4s., 2s., and 1s. The famous dancer was followed by the most famous troupe of vaulters ever seen in Birmingham—the Bedouin Arabs. "The Stage represents the Great Desert of Sahara! with Tableaux Vivans of the Evolutions, Dances, and Exercises peculiar to the Bedevi, or Sons of the Desert, which will be given in the representation of an Arabian Festival by the Native Bedouins. The Free List entirely suspended—the Press excepted."

After the departure of these wonderful performers, Mrs. Honey was with us again for five nights; and on September 9 the theatre closed for the season, when Mr. and Mrs. Keeley performed for the benefit of the Lessee, Mr. Munro.

Vauxhall Gardens were now in their splendour. Galas were frequently given; and singers of first-class reputation were engaged. On September 23 Mr. D'Ernst gave one of his famous galas, and in addition to the variegated lamps and the "magnificent display of fireworks," there appeared "Mrs. F. Mathews, of the Theatres Royal Covent Garden and Haymarket; Mr. Paul Bedford, the great Bass Singer, from the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, and Vauxhall, London; and Mr. Buckingham, the celebrated Comic Singer of the Royal Vauxhall."

The Theatre opened for the Autumn season with the "grand Romantic Operatic Spectacle of Blue Beard," and arrangements were

entered into with "Mr. Atkins, of the Zoological Gardens, Liverpool, *for the introduction of his stupendous elephant!*" In October Mrs. Honey appeared for five nights in "Blue Jackets;" on November 4 Mr. Buckstone commenced a similar engagement, and on the 8th his new comedy of "Single Life" was played here for the first time. On the 11th Mr. Charles Sloman, the "celebrated English Improvisatore," made his first appearance. Mrs. Stirling was this season a member of the company, and Mr. Alfred Mellon the leader of the band.

During the theatrical season of 1840 we had a very good company, and the following stars appeared at different periods: Mr. Templeton, Mr. Stansbury, Miss Romer, Mr. Power, Mr. Braham, Ducrow's stud of horses, Mrs. Honey, Mr. Buckstone, Mrs. Keeley, Mr. Yates, Paul Bedford, Mr. H. Hall (the five last named playing in Jack Sheppard), Mr. Wright, Miss E. Tree, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, and Van Amburgh, his lions and tigers. The other amusements were of the usual kind, Concerts, Vauxhall galas, Professor Anderson, Barnardo Eagle, Wax-works, and balls.

On Saturday, December 26, the Theatre opened for the Winter season, under the joint management of Messrs. Munro and Simpson, and the first Christmas Pantomime was produced. It was called "Harlequin and the Knight of the Silver Shield; or the Goblin Mill. The Scenery painted by Mr. Scott; the Machinery and Changes by Mr. Watson; the Tricks and Properties by Mr. Wyatt; the Dresses by Mr. Grindell; the Pantomime written and produced by Mr. De Hayes, under the immediate direction of Mr. Simpson."

§ 5. MANNER, CUSTOMS, ETC.

We have scarcely anything to record under this head for the present decade; but that little is of a gratifying kind. The brutal sports of cocking and bull-baiting are no longer advertised; both were made illegal by the passing of the act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The former was and still is carried on in secret by men whose gambling greed has destroyed their humanity. Cricket is rapidly

becoming a national game, and on June 16, 1834, we find the following report of a meeting to encourage that and other healthful sports :—

On Tuesday, a meeting of Gentlemen friendly to the project of providing ground "for the encouragement of cricket, racket, and other games," was held at the Public Office, pursuant to a notice in this paper last week. The High Bailiff was called to the chair, and in the course of his remarks regretted that no place was established in this town for the encouragement of manly exercises, and expressed his hope that the plan which was about to be submitted to supply that deficiency would be liberally supported. Mr. H. M. Griffiths then stated that a piece of land, about six acres, centrally situated in the neighbourhood of Holloway Head, was fixed upon as eligible for the purpose, at a rental of £150 for the first ten years. The proprietor estimated the value of the land at £300 per annum, but being anxious to aid the Committee in their efforts, he had consented to take half that amount for the period named, at the expiration of which it would be optional whether the lease were renewed or not. The annual expense incurred in the maintenance of the establishment (Mr. Griffiths added), would amount to £150 more, and that the general outlay, contemplated in its formation, would not exceed £1,200. The meeting was also addressed by other gentlemen, and it was unanimously resolved that a general canvass of the town should forthwith be commenced.

The following is the last reference which we find to

BULL-BAITING.

To the Editor of Aris's Gazette.

October 12, 1835.—Sir, It must be gratifying to every friend of humanity, that during the last Session of Parliament a bill, the provisions of which, if strictly enforced, will have the effect of abolishing the horrid and demoralising practice of Bull-baiting, was introduced and received the Royal assent. It therefore behoves the Ministers and Churchwardens of those parishes where the cruel system has been pursued, to avail themselves of the power now placed in their hands, and zealously to carry into effect the humane intentions of the framers and supporters of the bill, while every sincere friend to humanity will cheerfully lend his assistance. As an individual deeply interested in promoting the happiness of the brute creation, I shall devote my time and labour in this good cause, and exert myself to render the bill effectual to the end designed. For want of such exertion, Bull-baiting was carried on to an horrible extent during the last wake at Brierley Hill, and thousands of people from distant parishes congregated together to enjoy this feast of blood. Three bulls were then baited on the Saturday evening previous to the wake Sabbath, and for four successive days they were torn and lacerated for their amusement in a manner too shocking to relate. Trusting that the diabolical sport will be speedily abolished,

I remain, Sir, your obliged servant,

Brierley Hill, October 3, 1835. A. SMITH.

PASSING OF THE REFORM BILL, AND POLITICS AFTER.

We have now reached the great year in Birmingham history. Old Birmingham men who took part in the Reform victory, look back to it with not unnatural pride, and encourage their degenerate and apathetic sons by telling them to read of 1832 and the Political Union. The year opened with the new Reform Bill being sent into Committee. On January 20, Daniel O'Donnell, accompanied by his son, Mr. Maurice O'Connell, visited the town, and addressed the people. On the 19th of March the bill was read a third time in the House of Commons. It was sent to the House of Lords on the 26th. On April 9 the second reading came on, and was carried on the 14th of the same month. Still the bill was not considered safe. The Political Union was more active than ever. The Council met on April 27, and the following business was transacted :—

Birmingham Political Union.

April 30, 1832.—At a Special Meeting of the Council of the Birmingham Political Union, held at the Rooms of the Union, in Great Charles Street, this 27th day of April, 1832 ; Thomas Attwood, Esq., in the Chair ;—This Council considering that the enemies of Reform, and of the peace and order of Society, have held out the most unfounded representation respecting a re-action, an indifference, and an apathy in the public mind, in the great cause of Parliamentary Reform, and considering that a grand exhibition of public feeling and determination is thereby rendered absolutely necessary, in order to contradict and refute such false and unfounded representations, and in order to assist in enabling our most excellent King and his patriotic Ministers to accomplish their great designs for the happiness of the people, and to carry the great measure of Reform into a law, uninjured and unimpaired in all its great parts and provisions, *it was resolved unanimously* :—

1st. That a General Meeting of the Inhabitants of Birmingham and its neighbourhood be held in the open space at the foot of Newhall Hill, on Monday, the 7th day of May next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon. The Chair to be taken at twelve o'clock precisely.

2nd. That this Council having heretofore declared that they will "*cease to labour in the great work of exciting the public mind to political objects when the Bill of Reform shall have become law, and when the prosperity of the lower and middle classes of the people shall have been restored*," do now think it their duty to recommend to their fellow countrymen to declare most positively, that if the Bill of Reform should be rejected or in any way injured or impaired in its great parts and provisions, they will never cease to use every possible legal exertion in their power to obtain a more complete and effectual restoration of the rights of the people than the Bill of Reform is calculated to give.

3rd. That this Council, feeling deeply grateful to the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Birmingham for their uniform peaceful, legal, and loyal conduct upon so

many occasions, do earnestly urge and enjoin all persons attending the meeting, as they value the great objects which they meet to promote, strictly to respect the law, since nothing can tend so much to endanger the cause of the Reform and the happiness of the people as any disorderly conduct or illegal act upon this occasion of unprecedented importance.

4th. That the Council do walk in procession from the Rooms, at the Union, in Great Charles Street, to Newhall Hill, at eleven o'clock in the morning of the intended meeting, and that the members and friends of the Union be invited to join in the procession.

By order of the Council,

THOMAS ATTWOOD, Chairman.
BENJAMIN HADLEY, Secretary.

Then followed the meeting of May 7 :—

BIRMINGHAM REFORM MEETING.

May 14, 1832.—The Meeting convened by the Council of the Political Union of Birmingham, held on Monday last, for the purpose of urging the House of Lords to pass the Reform Bill, was attended by a vast concourse of persons from most of the surrounding towns and villages, numerous bodies of whom marched in succession into the town on the morning of the meeting, with flags, banners, music, &c. This great accession of numbers to that portion of the resident population usually obeying the call of the Council, contributed to swell the assemblage on the occasion to such an extent, very considerably surpassing any former meeting. The actual number of persons present has been variously and widely computed, some statements estimating it from sixty to seventy thousand, and others carrying it as high as one and two hundred. and even as far as two hundred and fifty thousand, including women, and children. The place of meeting was, as before, at the foot of Newhall Hill, where the necessary preparations had been previously made. On the arrival of the different "Unions" from the country, they proceeded to the ground, whither the main body, after parading some of the principal streets, arrived in procession, with the promoters of the meeting at their head, about twelve o'clock. On Mr. Attwood and those of the Council and others who accompanied him making their appearance on the hustings, they were greeted with loud cheering.

There were nearly 200,000 persons present. All the neighbouring towns had sent their branch of the Union to swell the great assembly. The number assigned to Birmingham was 50,000. The banners and bands of music formed not the least remarkable or attractive feature of this extraordinary awaking of the people. It was a grand and sublime sight, which those who witnessed will never forget. Mr. Attwood was in the chair, and before the business commenced these 200,000 voices sung the spirit-stirring hymn, by the Rev. Hugh Hutton, "The Gathering of the Unions":—

CALL!

Over mountain, over plain,
Echoing wide from sea to sea,
Peals, and shall not peal in vain,
The trumpet call of liberty!
Britain's guardian spirit cries—
Britons awake! awake! arise!

Sleep no more the sleep of shame;
Rise and break oppression's chain!
Lulled by freedom's empty name,
Worse than slaves no more remain,
Freedom's rights, not freedom's name,
Dare to know, and dare to claim.

Shall honest labour toil in vain
While plunder fattens on the land?
Still shall a tyrant faction's reign
People and King at once command?
No! it may not, shall not be,
For we must, we will be free.

Sleep ye still, while one by one
Each sacred, dear bought right is lost,
Rights which your fathers' broadswords won,
Rights which your fathers' life-blood cost?
No! it may not, shall not be,
For we must, we will be free.

See rises from the bed of fame
Each chief of glorious Runymede,
With Hampden! history's noblest name,
They call us to our country's need;
They call, and can we heedless be?
No! for we must, we will be free.

But not to war and blood they call,
They bid us lift not sword nor gun;
Peaceful, but firm, join one and all,
To claim your rights, and they are won.
The British Lion's voice alone
Shall gain for Britain all her own.

ANSWER.

Lo! we answer; see! we come!
Quick at freedom's holy call.
We come, we come! we come, we come!
To do the glorious work of all.
And hark! we raise, from sea to sea,
Our sacred watchword, Liberty!

God is our guide; from field, from wave,
The plough, the anvil, and the loom,
We come, our country's rights to save,
And speak a tyrant faction's doom.
And hark! we raise, from sea to sea,
Our sacred watchword, Liberty!

God is our guide! no sword we draw;
We kindle not war's fatal fires.
By union, justice, reason, law,
We claim the birthright of our sires!
And thus we raise, from sea to sea,
Our sacred watchword, Liberty!

The speeches were of the most vehement character, but with all the vehemence there was manifested a solemn conviction of the serious responsibility which was incurred, and an equally solemn determination to meet that responsibility whatever it might be. Every one spoke as the spokesmen of men

"who knew their rights,
And knowing dared maintain,"

should speak; and its potency was felt throughout the nation. In the petition to the House of Lords this great meeting prayed them not to injure or mutilate the bill; and anxiously and earnestly implored the Lords "not to drive to despair a high-minded, a generous, and fearless people." Then followed one of the most solemn spectacles ever seen in the world. Mr. Thomas Clutton Salt, acting as it were on a sudden inspiration, took off his hat, and the vast multitude following his example, he bade them repeat after him the Union vow. Thus from the 200,000 assembled arose in unison, like the solemn voice of the sea, their voices repeating these words: "In unbroken faith, through every peril and privation, we devote ourselves and our children to our country's cause."

Harriet Martineau gives the following graphic account of the state of the nation at this time:—

"During this week orders were sent down to the barracks at Birmingham that the Scots Greys should be daily and nightly booted and saddled, with ball cartridge ready for use at a moment's notice.

"The Political Unions met early and continually. The National Union declared itself in permanent session: 1,500 new members—all men of substance—entered it in one day. Its watchword was, 'Peace, Order, Obedience to the Law.' It passed a resolution, 'That whoever advises a dissolution of parliament is a public enemy.'

"The great Birmingham Union, now 200,000 strong, was to encamp on Hampstead Heath, or perhaps Penenden Heath, in order to incorporate with it bodies coming from the south. On the movements of this Birmingham Union, which had so lately uttered its sublime vow under the open sky, all eyes were now turned: and there is reason to believe that what passed at Birmingham immediately determined the issue of this mighty contention . . . . . Of all the forces in the kingdom, the soldiery at Birmingham fixed the most attention, because Birmingham was the foremost place in public observation; because the Duke must be able to rely on the soldiery stationed there at such a time, if on any; and because of the reports afloat that the Scots Greys would refuse to act against the people, if called upon.

"The officers of the Birmingham Union knew that certain of the Scots Greys were on the Union books. Letters were found in the streets of the town, which declared in temperate language that the Greys would do their duty if called on to repress riot, or any kind of outrage, but that they would not act if called on to put down a peaceable meeting, or to hinder the conveyance to London of any petition, by any number of peaceable persons."

On May 7 Government were defeated on a motion to postpone the disfranchising clauses until the amount of enfranchisement should be determined, by 151 to 116. On the 9th Earl Grey resigned; and then followed another Birmingham meeting :—

Second Reform Meeting at Newhall Hill.

May 14, 1832.—Intelligence of the Resignation of Earl Grey and his Colleagues, and their consequent abandonment of the Reform Bill, became known in Birmingham early on Thursday morning. This unlooked for event following so closely upon the meeting held on Monday, gave rise to great and very general excitement, and an immmediate meeting of the Council of the Political Union took place to consider the steps they should in consequence take. At this meeting it was communicated by Mr. Parkes, that a declaration had that morning been spontaneously signed by a great number of the subscribers to the Public News Room, who had hitherto refrained from joining the Union, but who considered it to be their duty at the present "awful crisis to come forward and join that body for the purpose of promoting the further union, order, and determination of all classes in support of the common cause of Parliamentary Reform," and that additional names were being added to the list. This intimation was of course received with satisfaction, and a resolution of thanks was voted to those gentlemen, "for their public spirit and patriotism." It was then resolved to invite the members and friends of the Union to wear on their breasts the ribbon of the Union Jack, "until the Bill of Reform has become law," and till they are enabled to supply themselves with this badge, with a piece of blue ribbon; and afterwards to convene a meeting at Newhall Hill, at three o'clock the same afternoon, of which notice was given by placards. Accordingly, as the hour approached at which the meeting was fixed to take place, a large concourse of the populace assembled in Great Charles Street, for the purpose of walking in procession to the ground, and their numbers were greatly augmented by those who fell in with the band as it paraded the streets of the town. The entire body then moved forward to the place of meeting, which had been previously occupied by a dense mass of people, and it was with difficulty the Council

made their way to the hustings. Having at length arrived there, Mr. Attwood was called to the chair, and proceeded to address the meeting to the following effect:—

"From the magnificent sight before me, it seems we have no want of public spirit in Birmingham at this trying hour of our country's need. I am happy to inform you that everything is going on as it should. What some might expect would intimidate the people of England, had served but to nerve their hearts and strengthen their arms. The people had suffered a temporary defeat; but he would give them a proof that the victory of their enemies would be of short duration. They all knew that there were many hundreds of upright, wealthy, and high-minded men in Birmingham, who had from various causes, held back from joining the Political Union. He was most happy to tell them however, that in this great crisis they were rapidly joining the ranks, and the Council had already received the names and subscriptions of *five hundred*. After receiving this gratifying intelligence, the Council proceeded to pass certain resolutions, and among them was one by reason by which that meeting was called. They had also determined to wear the badge which they saw on his breast—*the Union Jack*, and to recommend the friends of reform throughout the Kingdom to wear the same, until the reform they sought was obtained.

Mr. Edmonds then read the resolution passed by the Council and having urged upon the assembly the observance of "legal, peaceable, firm, and determined conduct," he proceeded to move the Petition to the House of Commons, the adoption of which was seconded by Mr. Scholefield, who announced that at the close of the proceedings a deputation, of which he had the honour of forming a part, would leave Birmingham, for London, to communicate the opinions of the vast multitude he then addressed to the Members of the Legislature, adding, that if the Tory Oligarchy, who had recently most unfortunately obtained a triumph, should continue, as they always were, insolent, they would find the Reformers of England firm and determined in their purpose.

The Historian of the Thirty Years' Peace thus describes the scenes which followed the resignation of the Whig Ministry:—

"The excitement in the provinces was, if possible, even more threatening than in London. Birmingham was at that time looked upon as the head-quarters of reform; and the movements of its Political Union, presided over by Mr. Thomas Attwood, were deemed of great importance both by the friends and the opponents of Reform. The news that the Reform Bill was in fact defeated, and that Lord Grey had resigned, instantly excited not only the more ardent reformers of the town, who had hitherto constituted the Union, but stirred up the whole population, timid and fearless, eager and apathetic alike; and they in various ways made manifest their anger and their determination. Placards were exhibited in the windows, some of which were in these words:—

Notice.
No Taxes paid here
Until
The Reform Bill is passed.

Others stated, 'no taxes paid here in money, and no goods bought distrained for taxes.' And, as was the case in London, immense numbers of persons to whom political agitation was disagreeable, and who therefore had hitherto abstained from taking part in it, now joined the Political Union. Catholic priests and grave quakers ostentatiously enrolled their names in the books of the Union, stating that they did so in order to preserve the

peace, for anarchy and confusion, they asserted, were certain unless the Reform Bill was instantly carried. Deputations from the surrounding towns came hurriedly to Birmingham, as a centre, in order to concert measures in this dangerous crisis! A meeting was held, a petition was proposed and adopted, and a deputation immediately selected to carry the petition express to London. The petition, among other angry and violent expressions, contained this very plain and threatening announcement, which, when it was read to the excited crowd, whose petition it purported to be, was received, says the newspaper of the day, with a tremendous burst of cheering which lasted several minutes. 'That your petitioners find it declared in the bill of rights, that the people of England may have arms for their defence, suitable to their condition, and as allowed by law; and your petitioners apprehend that this great right will be put in force generally, and that the whole of the people of England will think it necessary to have arms for their defence, in order that they may be prepared for any circumstances that may arise.

"A petition which more plainly stated the intention of its framers to have recourse to arms, was probably never presented to the House of Commons.

"The delegates from Birmingham, who brought this petition express to London, were next day present at various public meetings held in the metropolis. Their presence excited still more the enthusiasm of the people, who now seemed to vie with each other in the employment of fierce and threatening language, and in proposing means by which the House of Lords might be coerced into a sense of the danger which clearly impended over the very order to which they belonged."*

A Declaration to the following effect was signed in a few hours by five hundred persons, among the most respectable of the inhabitants :—

"We, the undersigned, inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Birmingham, who have hitherto refrained from joining the Birmingham Political Union, deem it our duty to our country, at this awful crisis, to come forward and join that body, for the purpose of promoting the further union, order, and determination of all classes in support of the common cause of Parliamentary reform."

On May 21, we have this account of the state of public feeling in Birmingham :—

REFORM MEETING, &c.

The population of the town of Birmingham, during Monday last, continued in a highly excited and feverish state, arising out of the events of the preceding week. Every kind of employment appeared to be altogether suspended, the streets were crowded from morning until night; and the greatest avidity to obtain fresh intelligence was everywhere exhibited. The Council of the Union met in the forenoon, and it becoming known that they were preparing a Declaration for publication against the proposed Ministry, the vicinity of the place of meeting became an object of attraction, and crowds of persons remained constantly on the spot. In the course of the day great accession was made to the numbers of the Union, and the streets were paraded by many of the newly enrolled members, with music, banners, &c.: no attempt at disorder however took place. The agitation of the

* History of the Thirty Years' Peace. By Harriet Martineau. v. 2. pp. 293-6.

preceding day subsided considerably during the Tuesday, no additional news of import arriving to keep up the excitement. The Declaration issued by the Council of the Union appeared upon the walls, and was eagerly read by the populace. This document, after reciting the grounds on which it rested its alarm at the report of the Duke of Wellington's appointment to the Ministry, observes :—

"For these and various other reasons, we hereby solemnly declare our fixed determination to use all the means which the constitution and the law have placed at our disposal, to induce his Majesty to reject from his councils that faction, at the head of which is the Duke of Wellington, who have, by their arbitrary principles, excited the distrust and abhorrence of the whole population of the United Kingdom, and we declare our firm conviction, that the public excitement and agitation can never be allayed until the great bill of Reform shall be carried into law by that Administration by whose wisdom and virtue it was first introduced. These are our fixed and unalterable sentiments; and we hereby appeal to our fellow-countrymen throughout England, Scotland, and Ireland, and we confidently call upon them to unite with us, and to sign this our solemn Declaration in support of the liberty and happiness of our country."

On the following morning, however, (Wednesday) the state of affairs underwent a most unlooked for and sudden change. Intelligence of the inability of the Duke of Wellington to form an administration, and of the unexpected return of the Earl Grey and his colleagues to power, was conveyed to town, at an early hour in the morning, by two of the deputation (Messrs. Parkes and Green), appointed from the Newhall-hill meeting, on the preceding Thursday. The bells of the different churches speedily announced the arrival of important news; and it was determined in celebration of the event to escort Mr. Attwood in triumph into the town. Preparations were immediately made, and publicity being given to the intention, the streets and roads leading to the place of meeting, were speedily thronged to excess. On the arrival of Mr. Attwood and the friends who accompanied him, in carriages provided for the occasion, the immense multitude moved forward in procession, entering the town by Smallbrook-street, and advancing through High-street, New-street, and Newhall-street, to Newhall-hill, where hustings had been in the mean time erected, for the purpose of holding a congratulatory meeting. In the progress through the town the bands accompanying the procession played a number of triumphant airs, and the exultation of the populace seemed complete.

On reaching the place of meeting, Mr. Attwood was called to the chair, amidst the enthusiastic cheers of the crowd; and at his request an extempore prayer was offered up by the Rev. H. Hutton, the Unitarian Minister. Mr. Attwood then came forward, and congratulated the assembly upon the glorious victory they had achieved, reminding them that, as he had predicted, Earl Grey "had been carried back—as he should be carried back—on the shoulders of the people into his Majesty's Councils;" adding, "that by patience, fortitude, and a strict regard to the law, they had gathered up strength that had proved omnipotent;" and concluded by earnestly entreating them "to observe the same courage, and to continue to exhibit the same patience and fidelity to the law." The meeting was afterwards addressed to the same effect by Mr. Scholefield, Mr. Muntz, Mr. Joseph Parkes, Messrs. Edmonds, Hadley, Jones, Salt, Lewis, &c., &c., in moving and seconding the various resolutions, copies of which, together with a Memorial to Earl Grey, appear in another column. A deputation was then appointed to wait on the noble Earl, consisting of Messrs. Attwood, Scholefield, Parkes, Lewis, and Hadley, who left Bir-

mingham for that purpose in the course of the same evening. On their entrance into Coventry the deputation was met by the populace and drawn into the town; where having briefly addressed the assembled crowd, they were escorted on their way to the limits of the city.

The Freedom of the City of London was presented to Mr. Attwood:—

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL—PRESENTATION OF THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY TO MR. THOMAS ATTWOOD.

On Wednesday, a special court was convened for the purpose of receiving an address and deputation, headed by Mr. Thomas Attwood, Chairman of the Political Union, of Birmingham. The Lord Mayor having taken his seat, the deputation, consisting of Mr. Attwood, Mr. Scholefield, Mr. Joseph Parkes, Mr. Muntz, Mr. B. Hadley, Mr. W. G. Lewis, and Mr. W. Boultbee, accompanied by Messrs. Salt, Jones, Edmonds, Dr. Wade and others, appeared at the bar, wearing the badge of the Union. Mr. Charles Pearson then addressed the Court at great length, and concluded with moving "that the Freedom of the City in a box made of the heart of British Oak, be presented to Thomas Attwood, Esq. (Chairman of the Birmingham Political Union,) in testimony of the high estimation in which the Citizens of London hold his distinguished services in the cause of Parliamentary Reform, and also of the ability displayed by him in uniting the intelligent and industrious artisans, and the inhabitants generally of the Midland Districts in their firm but peaceable pursuits of that great national object." After some discussion and slight opposition, the deputation was admitted within the bar, and the Address was read by Mr. Attwood.

On concluding, Mr. Attwood received the congratulations of his friends, and the Court broke up.

In the evening the Lord Mayor gave a dinner to the deputation at the Mansion House, at which about one hundred gentlemen sat down to dinner, among whom were, Lord Ebrington; Sir F. Burdett, Bart; Mr. Byng, M.P.; Mr. Hume, M.P.; Mr. Alderman Wood, M.P.; Mr. T. Duncombe, M.P.; Colonel Torrens; Mr. Campbell; Mr. M. Hill; Mr. Potter, (from Manchester), &c., &c.

Earl Grey returned to power, and the nation was saved from a revolution, the fearful consequences of which no one dare imagine. "Mr. Joseph Parkes," says Mr. James Jaffray, "travelled by post express down to Birmingham with the news, distributing printed slips to the effect that Lord Grey was again in power—scattering them by the road side and amongst the population of every town and village on the way. At six o'clock, on the morning of Wednesday, the 16th, he reached Birmingham." The joy at this intelligence baffles description. We must quote the report of the return of the deputation from London:—

June 4, 1832.—Particulars of the public reception given to Mr. Attwood and the London deputation on their return home, having already been fully laid before the public, it becomes unnecessary to enter much into detail on the subject. It was announced that the deputation would arrive at the entrance of the town at six o'clock in the evening, and that they were there to be met be the members of the Union, and by such of the

inhabitants as chose to join them in the procession, attended with bands of music, flags, banners, &c. Long previous to that hour, however, preparations were made by many of the inhabitants in those streets through which the procession was expected to pass, to give a favourable reception to the deputation, and banners and other emblems, bearing various inscriptions and devices, were exhibited from their windows. In advance of and following the procession, an immense body of the populace went out towards the place of meeting; and for hours before the deputation appeared, the streets and roads leading thereto, were densely lined with spectators in every kind of vehicle, on horseback, and on foot. On being joined by Mr. Attwood and his friends, the procession slowly made its way towards the town, amidst the continual cheers of the immense assemblage, the ringing of bells, &c. Mr. Attwood was seated on the front of an open carriage, in which were the other members of the deputation; he was of course the great object of attraction, and the whole of the way was occupied in acknowledging the welcome of the spectators. Such was the slow progress of the procession, that that portion of it in which Mr. Attwood moved, did not reach New Street until almost, if not quite nine o'clock, and consequently nearly dark. It was therefore determined that he should proceed no further; and having ascended the balcony of the Hen and Chickens Hotel, he addressed the crowd, thanking them for the kind attention they had shown him, and regretting that from the lateness of the hour it was not prudent to carry into complete effect all the arrangements of the Committee The head of the procession had in the mean time moved towards the Five Ways, and great disappointment was felt by many who were thus deprived of a view of the procession, after long and anxiously waiting its arrival. Mr. Attwood, in conclusion, advised the population to retire quietly to their homes, and after repeated cheers, they began to disperse. A heavy fall of rain came on at this moment, which greatly accelerated this movement, and continuing for some time, it prevented any partial re-assembling of the crowd afterwards. Not withstanding the immense mass of people assembled on the occasion, we have not heard of any accident of consequence.

The Reform Bill passed the Lords on the 4th of June, and on the 7th received the Royal assent; and thus triumphantly closed one of the most splendid moral spectacles which the world has ever seen. "Very few thoughtful men of the nation," says Mr. Elihu Burritt, "can now doubt that the storm would have burst upon the country with all the devastation of civil war, if Thomas Attwood had not drawn the lightning out of the impending tempest, by the rod of moral force. From the central hill of the town he lifted up his revolutionary standard, with this new device: 'PEACE, LAW, AND ORDER!' This white flag, and not the bloody banner of brute force and brute passion, which had been raised in other times, at home and abroad, to right political wrongs, was the *drapeau* of the Political Union, which he formed and headed in the Metropolis of the Black Country."* And from that time to this we have gone on in

* Walks in the Black Country and its Green Border Land. By Elihu Burritt, M.A. pp. 17, 18.

the same course, winning all our reforms under the banner of "Peace, Law, and Order."

The enthusiasm of the people on the receipt of the news that the Reform Bill had really passed and was the law of the land, is indescribable. Strong and stalwart men actually wept with joy; and grave men threw up their hats in the air and shouted like school children who have an unexpected holiday. Such a day was never seen in Birmingham before; and in the writer's opinion, who had the pleasure of sharing in its delirium of happiness, will never be seen again. What are the meetings, the triumphs, the enthusiasm of these degenerate days compared with the glories of 1832!

After the passing of the Bill, there was a slight misunderstanding between Mr. Joshua Scholefield and Mr. George Edmonds, and not a very pleasant correspondence. For some time the latter gentleman insisted upon offering himself as a candidate for the votes of the newly-created burgesses; but he ultimately withdrew from a contest which would have divided the Liberal interest.

On August 20 the "United Trades" of the town celebrated the passing of the Reform Bill by a public dinner:—

August 27, 1832.—We stated in our last that the "United Trades" of this town had determined to celebrate the passing of the Reform Acts by a procession, dinners, &c., on Monday last. In consequence, about nine o'clock on that morning, various bodies commenced assembling on a piece of vacant ground in Broad-street, the members of the different trades taking their station in the rear of those who had previously arrived. The procession began to move at eleven, each trade being headed by a band, and many of the members bearing banners with emblematical devices and inscriptions. It thence advanced in succession through the principal streets of the town, amidst a large concourse of spectators, attracted by the novelty and the gaiety of the scene. The number of persons forming the procession was very numerous, and their conduct, during its progress, very orderly and peaceful. On arriving in New-street, Mr. Attwood shewed himself from one of the windows in the bank, and harangued them at some length. The various trades soon after separated, some of them retiring to public-houses where dinner was prepared for them; and others adjourning to different manufactories at which entertainments were provided by their different employers. At Newhall-hill preparations had been made for dining five hundred persons, and the "female reformers" were invited to a ball in the evening. Soon after dinner Mr. Attwood, and others of the Political Council, appeared on the platform, and addressed those present. As the evening approached the persons on the ground began to disperse, and at nine o'clock the whole had retired.

The nomination of our first members took place at the Public Office, Moor Street, on Wednesday, December 12, 1832. Mr. Attwood was

proposed by Mr. T. W. Hill, and seconded by Mr. Betts: Mr. G. F. Muntz, and Mr. Thomas Clark, respectively moving and seconding Mr. Scholefield, who were returned without opposition. The following is the report of their "chairing":—

December 24, 1832.—On Monday, Messrs. Attwood and Scholefield, the Members for this borough, were conveyed in procession through the principal streets of the town, attended by a large concourse of their friends and supporters, in carriages, on horseback, and on foot, with bands of music, banners, favours, &c., &c. The two members were elevated on an open car, lined with blue and crimson silk, decorated with laurel and rosettes of ribbon, and drawn by six grey horses; and from this elevation they acknowledged the greetings of their friends as they passed along. On returning to the Hen and Chickens Hotel they addressed their followers, who then quietly separated.

It was resolved that the Political Union should not be dissolved. At a meeting of the Council, held on January 1, 1833, a resolution was passed to keep "firmly united." On January 26, Mr. O'Connell was entertained at a dinner. On February 25, a meeting of the Union was held at Beardsworth's Repository, at which the "atrocious conduct of the Ministry" was condemned with reference to the measures contemplated for Ireland, and for "their neglect in regard to the distressed condition of the working classes." This refers to the Irish Coercion Bill, which excited the indignation of the people of this town; and on May 20 another great meeting was held on Newhall Hill. It is said that more than 200,000 persons were present.

The members of the Council, among whom were Mr. Thomas Attwood, Mr. Muntz, and the Rev. T. M. M'Donnell, Dr. Wade, Mr. O'Connell, and others proceeded to the ground in an open carriage, preceded by Mr. Edmonds, on horseback, as conductor, and a band of music; and followed by members of the Union with flags and banners. On arriving there they were joined by numerous bodies of persons from Dudley, Halesowen, and West Bromwich, and from Warwick, Leamington, &c.

The following is the bill of indictment against the ministers passed at this meeting:—

That his Majesty's Ministers—

First.—By violating the constitution and destroying the liberties of Ireland;

Secondly.—By refusing to allow the right of Voting by Ballot, necessary to the protection of the electors in the exercise of their just and legal franchise;

Thirdly.—By their denial of general distress amongst the industrious classes, and their refusal of enquiry into the means of its relief;

Fourthly.—By persevering in unjust and cruel corn laws, and by their refusal to make any perceptible reduction of the present overwhelming load of taxation, by their perpetuating

the house and window tax, notwithstanding the relief so imperatively demanded by the present depressed state of trade, and more especially in persevering in inflicting on the country the whole of the unjust and oppressive malt-tax, although its partial abolition had been decided on by a deliberate vote of the House of Commons, both of which partial and odious taxes are merely necessary to furnish them with the means of maintaining tyranny in Ireland, and misery in England—have betrayed the confidence of the people, and turned their sanguine hopes into despair.

On July 1 we read :—

Earl Fitzwilliam having declined presenting to his Majesty the Petition from the Newhall-hill Meeting, praying him to dismiss his Ministers, and his Lordship having returned it to the chairman, Mr. Muntz, accompanied with a letter of twelve pages, explaining his reasons for refusing, it has been determined to try Lord Melbourne. The Petition to the Commons, from the same meeting, against all restrictions on the importation of animal and vegetable food, was presented, on Monday last, by Mr. Attwood; as also was one from the Council of the Union against the conduct of the police at the late Coldbath Fields Meeting.

On September 15, 1834, a "Great Public Dinner" was given to the Borough Members, Mr. T. Attwood and Mr. J. Scholefield, at Beardsworth's Repository. At this dinner Mr. Attwood intimated that he had "serious thoughts of resigning." On Friday, November 28, a meeting was held in the Town Hall, at which the principal speakers were Mr. Henry Smith, Mr. S. Beale, Mr. James James, Mr. G. F. Muntz, Mr. George Edmonds, and the Rev. T. M. M'Donnell, at which determined hostility to any administration formed under the auspices of the Duke of Wellington was expressed, and resolutions embodying that opinion were passed.

The Conservatives of the town had now resolved to form an association for the defence of their principles, and for the purpose of obtaining a share in the representation of the borough. A meeting was held on December 17, of which we have the following report in the *Gazette* of the 22nd :—

On Wednesday a numerous meeting of Gentlemen of Conservative principles was held at Dee's Royal Hotel, Theodore Price, Esq., in the chair, when the following Declaration was unanimously adopted, and signed by all present :—

"We, the undersigned, Magistrates, Clergy, Bankers, Merchants, Manufacturers, and other Inhabitants of Birmingham and its immediate vicinity, feel it our duty at the present time, when efforts are being made to effect a separation of Church and State, thus publicly to declare our firm determination zealously to support the Protestant Church Establishment in its connection with the State, and to maintain in its integrity the British Constitution, being ready at the same time to promote every safe and temperate measure for the correction of real evils, and proved abuses."

The state of the representation of the town was next taken into consideration; and after some discussion, it was unanimously resolved to invite Richard Spooner, Esq., to become a candidate for the borough in opposition to the present members. Mr. Spooner being then in Birmingham, a deputation, consisting of the Chairman, James Taylor, Esq., and Messrs. Unett and Alston, was nominated to wait upon that Gentleman and receive his answer. In the mean time a subscription was opened to defray the necessary expenses of the contest, and upwards of 500*l.* was immediately raised, an amount which has since been considerably augmented. The reply of Mr. Spooner was in the affirmative, and the requisitionists forthwith pledged themselves to use every exertion to secure his return. This pledge they have already in part redeemed, by forming themselves into a Committee and instituting a general canvas among the electors In this labour they were promply assisted by a committee formed in the hamlets of Deritend and Bordesley, and the result up to Saturday night was considered to be highly satisfactory. The announcement of Mr. Spooner as a candidate, of course, roused the friends of Messrs. Attwood and Scholefield into activity, and they also have since been engaged in busily canvassing the electors.

The Society was called the "Birmingham Loyal and Constitutional Association." The Earl of Dartmouth was President, and the Vice-Presidents were the Earl of Bradford, Lord Calthorpe, the Hon. Frederick Calthorpe, Mr. W. P. Dugdale, M.P., and Mr. Gough. Mr. R. Spooner was Chairman; Mr. James Beswick, Deputy-Chairman; and the Hon. Secretaries were Mr. George Whately and Mr. J. B. Hebbert. Each member of the Association signed the following Declaration of principle:—

"We, whose name are hereunto subscribed, declare our fixed determination to maintain the tried and antient principles on which the constitution of our country is established, and as members of this Association we hold ourselves pledged to resist all measures by which the connection between the Church and State may be severed or relaxed—the dignity of the monarchy impaired, or its existence endangered—the efficiency of the House of Lords as an integral branch of the Legislature diminished, or the deliberative powers of the Commons' House of Parliament fettered or controlled; as we are convinced that the independence of the established authorities is essential to the existence of social order, the security of property, and the interests of religion."

At the General Election which took place early in 1835, there was an opposition and a contest. The three candidates were Thomas Attwood, Joshua Scholefield, Liberals; and Richard Spooner, Conservative. The nomination took place in the Town Hall, on January 8,

at which an accident occurred whilst Mr. Spooner was addressing the meeting :—

January 12, 1835.—The greatest consternation was excited in consequence of a most alarming crash from the east end of the south gallery. In an instant persons were seen to be precipitated from the front of the gallery to the floor of the hall, and, at the time, the general impression was that the gallery had given way. It appears, however, that owing to the number of persons who stood upon the uppermost bench, it gave way, and the natural consequence was that the occupiers of the bench were instantly thrown forward upon those in the front of them, and the effect extending to the seats in front of them, the weight became too powerful for the front of the gallery to withstand. The panelling accordingly gave way, and several persons previously occupying seats in the front were either precipitated or voluntarily jumped by way of safety into the body of the hall and side galleries. Nothing could exceed the momentary alarm which the circumstance created; and the confusion was so great that it was thought better, although Mr. Spooner had not concluded, that the Returning Officers should close the business by calling for a show of hands, which was declared to be in favour of Mr. Attwood and Mr. Scholefield. A poll was then demanded on behalf of Mr. Spooner, which was fixed to commence on Friday morning. The meeting immediately separated.

The result of the poll was declared on the 12th, and was as follows : Mr. Attwood, 1,718; Mr. Scholefield, 1,660; Mr. Spooner, 915.

On April 14, a Reformers' Registration Society was formed with the object of watching "over the registration of voters for the borough, and for this district of the northern division of the county, with a view to the promotion of reform principles." The following gentlemen agreed to act provisionally as officers of the Society :—

Mr. Henry Smith, Chairman.
Mr. G. F. Muntz, Deputy Chairman.
Mr. Samuel Beale, Treasurer.
Mr. William Pare, Secretary.
Mr. B. Redfern,
Mr. C. Sturge.
Mr. T. S. James,
Mr. W. Room,
} Honorary Secretaries.

During this year a meeting was held in the Town Hall, on Friday, September 4, for the purpose of re-organising the "Political Union." Mr. B. Hadley was in the Chair; and all the old reform leaders—Messrs. Edmonds, Giles, Salt, Pare, P. H. Muntz, the Rev. T. M. M'Donnell, and the Rev. Hugh Hutton—took part in the proceedings. The Hall, says the *Gazette*, was "densely filled, and among those

present, we understand, were delegates from Wolverhampton, Dudley, Wednesbury, &c., &c. Indeed, so fearfully were the galleries crowded, that serious apprehensions were at times entertained lest the front should give way under the weight forced upon them by the pressure of those behind."

The following resolutions were passed :—

1. That this Meeting has viewed, with the greatest regret and dissatisfaction, the consent given by the Ministry and the House of Commons to the destructive amendments introduced into the Municipal Reform Bill by the Lords; and considering all attempts to conciliate the House of Peers—short of the abandonment of the principles of Reform—to be vain and hopeless, this meeting cannot believe that the yielding in this instance of principles admitted to be just and necessary, can have any other effect than that of weakening the public confidence in the Ministry and the House of Commons.

2. That the determined opposition of the House of Peers to the Municipal Corporation Reform Bill, coupled with the hasty and contemptuous manner in which that House has rejected the Irish Church Bill, and other liberal measures during the session, has served to recall to the recollection of this meeting the hostility which has almost uniformly been shewn by their lordships to all measures having for their object the peace, welfare, and happiness of the people; and to convince us of the utter futility of expecting those searching reforms of abuses, and those ameliorations of our institutions, which justice and the increased knowledge of the people demand, whilst the House of Lords shall remain in its present irresponsible state, composed, as it is, on the one hand, of men who, for the most part, are totally unfitted, by their want of experience, political knowledge, and wisdom, to legislate for this great country, and whose education and habits tend to create in them separate interests from those of the people generally,—and. on the other hand, of men who have been raised to the Peerage to suit the mere party purposes of the Minister of the day! That, for these and other reasons, it appears to this meeting absolutely necessary that the constitution of the House of Lords should be so altered and amended as in some way to be made responsible to the people for the exercise of its functions, and to bring it into harmony with the altered circumstances of the other branch of the Legislature.

3. That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is expedient to re-organize the Political Union, and bring it into immediate and vigorous exercise, for the purpose of obtaining a full and efficient measure for the reform of the Municipal Corporations of England and Ireland.

4. That the Gentlemen at present forming the Council of the Union be, and are hereby, re-elected for the ensuing year.

5. That the Council be requested to urge upon the attention of the House of Commons the necessity of, in future, exercising its constitutional right of withholding the supplies until it has obtained full security for the redress of grievances; also, to take into immediate and serious consideration the best mode of effecting such a Reform of the House of Lords as shall bring it into harmony with the altered circumstances of the other branch of the Legislature; and further to take such steps as may be necessary to prevent any compromise of the cause of the people.

On Wednesday, the 18th of November, a meeting "of the friends of the Protestant Religion and the Constitution in Church and State," was held in the Town Hall. It is described as being "an assembly unprecedented for numbers and respectability." The following is the contemporary account of this meeting :—

November 23, 1835.—Unable to devote, within the usual limits of our publication, anything like sufficient space to give even an outline of the very able and deeply interesting statements made by the Rev. Messrs. M'Ghee and O'Sullivan, at the meeting, held at the Town Hall, on Wednesday last, we have this week made an addition of two pages to our impression, and are thereby enabled to lay before our readers an ample report of the proceedings. The attendance, as had been fully anticipated, was not only most respectable, but every part of the hall was filled to excess long before the business of the meeting commenced. The side galleries were reserved for ladies exclusively, and they were early occupied; the front gallery was also quickly tenanted with numerous parties, male and female; and the floor of the hall was densely filled, principally by gentlemen. The platform and organ gallery were likewise crowded by those who took an active part in the proceedings; and, as the admission was by ticket, it was clearly ascertained that little short of four thousand persons were present. Among them, as will be seen by the list incorporated in the report, were nearly the whole of the clergy of the town and surrounding neighbourhood, in addition to a considerable number of the gentry, with their families, from a distance.

Richard Spooner, Esq., having been called to the chair, on the motion of W. P. Inge, Esq., seconded by John Simcox, Esq., the meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Wm. Marsh. The chairman then commenced the proceedings with a few prefatory remarks in explanation of the object of the meeting, and concluded by calling upon Mr. M'Ghee to make his statement.

The rev. gentleman immediately commenced and occupied the unwearied attention of his auditors full three hours. He was succeeded by Mr. O'Sullivan in an address little short of two hours and a half in its delivery. The lucid and striking statements, which it is unnecessary for us further to describe, followed as they were by the most stirring and eloquent appeals, were listened to throughout with intense interest, interrupted only by frequent and involuntary bursts of applause and approbation, betokening the conviction they carried to the minds of their protestant hearers. Two of the Clergy, and a few members of the Roman Catholic Church were present, with the avowed object of furnishing themselves with materials for their intended meeting in reply, on Monday next. At the close of Mr. O'Sullivan's speech, James Taylor, Esq., moved, and the Rev. William Marsh seconded, a vote of thanks to the rev. gentleman; and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman, moved by Lord Viscount Lorton, and seconded by the Rev. John Garbett. The company immediately afterwards separated.

In December was held the first anniversary meeting of the Loyal and Constitutional Association :—

BIRMINGHAM LOYAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL ASSOCIATION.

December 21, 1835.—The first anniversary meeting of the members of this Association was held at Dee's Royal Hotel, on Thursday last. The chair was taken by the President,

the Earl of Dartmouth, and the meeting was attended by many of the clergy of the town and neighbourhood, who took that opportunity of shewing their approbation of the principles of the association. As, however, it was expected that the proceedings would be chiefly confined to matters of detail, and as they so shortly preceded the time fixed upon for the dinner, the attendance was not so numerous as it otherwise would have been. Several resolutions, approving and adopting the Report of the Committee (a copy of which appears in the fourth page), passing the accounts, re-electing the officers, &c., having been voted, an Address to the King was proposed by Richard Spooner, Esq., and its adoption seconded by the Rev. W. R. Bedford. The Earl of Dartmouth, in putting the question to the meeting, expressed his full concurrence in the sentiments of the address, which was then unanimously agreed to. In moving that it be presented to his Majesty by the noble President, with the Earls of Aylesford and Bradford, the Rev. John Garbett spoke at considerable length, and the motion was seconded by George Barker, Esq. The meeting then separated.

At this meeting we first read that a "new and most effective mode of cheering the toasts was adopted, called the Conservative or Kentish fire, which was quickly caught by the company, and all appeared to join in it with great glee. It had a singular and pleasing effect from the galleries, and we are told was heard at a considerable distance from the hall."

Political agitation was renewed in 1836, and the first war note was thus sounded :—

POLITICAL UNION.

January 18, 1836.—At a Meeting of Gentlemen, Inhabitants of the Town of Birmingham, held at Dee's Royal Hotel, on the 13th of January, 1836, James Taylor, Esq., in the Chair;

It was resolved—

That the following PROTEST be submitted to the Inhabitants of the Town for adoption, and that it lie for Signature at the Royal Hotel, the Public Office, the Offices of *Aris's Gazette* and the *Advertiser* :—

Birmingham, January 13, 1836.

An Advertisement and Placard having been issued by certain persons calling themselves "The Council of the Birmingham Political Union," and pretending to act under an authority entrusted to them by the Inhabitants of Birmingham on the 4th of September last; and these persons having taken upon themselves to convene a General Meeting of the Inhabitants for the purpose of passing an Address to the King and a Petition to the House of Commons :—

We, the undersigned, Magistrates, Clergy, Gentry, Bankers, Merchants, Manufacturers, Tradesmen, and other Inhabitants of Birmingham, publicly PROTEST against the proceedings of this self-constituted Body. WE DENY that either on the 4th of September last, or on any other occasion, "the inhabitants of Birmingham entrusted" these persons with any power, authority, or right to represent them in any way whatever. WE DENY that they do in fact represent either the property, the respectability, or the opinions of this town; and we take this step with a view to disabuse the public mind as to the nature and

pretensions of the proposed Meeting, and that the character of this town may be no longer compromised and its commercial interests injured by the proceedings of the Political Union.

In a short time over two thousand names were attached to this protest.

On January the 18th the Reformers held a meeting in the Town Hall, which was intended as "a demonstration which should overawe the House of Lords and perhaps the Throne itself." An address to the King was adopted, and a petition to the House of Commons, urging "an organic change in the constitution of the House of Lords," and "a more efficient measure of Corporation Reform." The address was to be presented by the Marquis of Westminster, and the petition by the members for the borough. A great Reform banquet was held in the same place on January 28, at which between 800 and 900 sat down to dinner. It was evidently a most successful gathering, as is evident even from the cool and careful report published in the *Gazette*.

REFORM DINNER.

Feb. 1. 1836.—This dinner, for which the most extensive preparations had been made during the past month, took place at the Town Hall, Birmingham, on Thursday last. Every exertion was used to muster in the greatest strength; and accordingly Mr. O'Connell, whose presence it was considered would attract a numerous company, together with Mr. Hume and several others distinguished for their public advocacy of the principles of reform were invited. The new Municipal Officers of the neighbouring corporate towns were likewise invited, and several of them it will be seen attended. Sir Geo. Chetwynd, Sir William Molesworth, and Sir Charles Wolseley, Barts., were also among the distinguished visitors. The attendance in point of number was about the same as dined at the late anniversary of the Loyal and Constitutional Association. At two o'clock the large gallery was thrown open and was speedily filled with females, many of whom remained during a great portion of the evening. The chair was announced to be taken at four o'clock, but in consequence of the non-arrival of Mr. O'Connell, considerable delay arose, and the Chairman did not take his seat until nearly five. At this time the whole of the tables, which were similarly disposed as at the dinner to which we have already alluded, were filled. The interior of the Hall was hung round with the flags and banners belonging to the Union. Mr. Muntz officiated as Chairman, and Mr. Benjamin Hadley as Vice-Chairman. On either side of the president sat Messrs. Attwood and Scholefield, the Members for the borough.

Among the toasts proposed were the following :—

"*The People—and may they never forget to vindicate their rights and fulfil their duties.*"

"*The Reformers of the United Kingdom—and may they never forget that 'union is strength.'*"

"*The health of the Members for the Borough.*"

"*Mr. Hume and the liberal and patriotic Members of the House of Commons, and the other distinguished Visitors who have honoured us with their presence.*"

"The Borough of Birmingham, and may it speedily realise the benefit of a liberal and enlightened Corporation elected by the people."

On the Monday following, that is February 1, nearly one thousand non-electors also dined in the Town Hall.

A public meeting was held in the same place on Monday, June 13, under the presidency of the Low Bailiff (Mr. Tyndall), the High Bailiff (Mr. James) having declined to call it. The purpose of the meeting was "to take into consideration the present position of the bill for the reform of the Irish Corporations." A petition was adopted, and despatched on the following Thursday to Mr. Attwood for presentation to the House of Commons. In the three days no fewer than 13,400 signatures were obtained.

The next two extracts show what the Conservatives were doing at this time :—

LOYAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Sept. 12, 1836.—The members of the Loyal and Constitutional Association are informed that the Society's Room, No. 25, Union-street, is this day opened to them as a General Conservative Reading Room, and will continue open every day, except Sunday, from nine o'clock in the morning till eight o'clock in the evening.

Conservatives, *of every class in Society* will also be allowed the *free* use of the Room, upon proper recommendation to the Committee, subject to such regulations as may be deemed necessary, and will be forthwith promulgated.

Reading Room, 25, Union-street.

JOHN B. HEBBERT, Secretary.

LOYAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Oct. 3, 1836.—At a Special General Meeting of the Members of this Association, held at Dee's Royal Hotel, on Friday the 30th of September, 1836;

The President, the Right Hon. the Earl of Dartmouth, in the Chair;

Moved by the Earl of Bradford, and seconded by the Rev. Josiah Allport, and *resolved* :—

1st. That this meeting, firmly and unalterably persuaded that Christianity is the only true bond of political Society; and convinced from all experience that the Church of England embodies the living principle of the Religion of the Bible, and is the sole unfailing guarantee of just and rational freedom in matters of conscience, and in secular affairs—have seen with the utmost apprehension and dread a system of hostile aggression on this the only enduring safeguard of national peace, prosperity, and happiness, by persons openly professing the principles of Popery on the one hand, and Republicanism on the other; aided by the Ministrial party, who, for the avowed purpose of retaining power in

their own hands, have deserted their former constitutional principles, and counteracted their own political professions; and do therefore declare their utter detestation of such conduct; and avow their constant and unchanging resolution to maintain the efficiency and usefulness of the Protestant Church now established in these Kingdoms; to preserve the connexion which subsists between the Church and the State, by which the best security is offered that the Government will be conducted according to the equity of Christian principles; and to oppose, by every lawful and constitutional means, the invasion of the civil and religious liberties of their fellow-countrymen, by persons who seek to compass their destructive purposes either by a direct assault upon the integrity of the Constitution, in an attempt to overthrow the House of Lord; or by daring and atrocious endeavours to destroy the present established Protestant Church of England and Ireland.

Moved by Richard Spooner, Esq., and seconded by Mr. R. W. Gem:—

2nd. That this Meeting, regarding the general aspect of public affairs at the close of the last Session of Parliament, see great cause of satisfaction in the manifold proofs that exist of strong and decided change in the public mind in favour of the tried and ancient institutions of this country, as evidenced, more particulary, in the recent instances of populous and important constituencies sending as their representatives to Parliament persons distinguished for their attachment to the limited Monarchy of Great Britain, and their devoted zeal in support of the principles of the Protestant Religion and its connexion with the State; and this meeting, being also of opinion that these happy results have been greatly promoted and expedited by the establishment of Associations for Loyal and Constitutional purposes, and are attributable in a more especial manner to the diffusion of sound constitutional knowledge through the medium of the Public Press; hereby express their entire approbation of the establishment of News and Reading-rooms, for the gratuitous use of Conservatives of all ranks; and desire emphatically to impress on the minds of their friends the paramount necessity for more strenuous and unwearied exertions and more liberal support than has, they regret to say, been hitherto accorded to those Associations, through means of which the present political struggle in favour of the British Constitution can alone be maintained.

In May, 1837, the Reform Association was formed, and on June 19, another great meeting was held on Newhall Hill, Mr. Thomas Attwood presiding, to inaugurate the new society. About fifty thousand persons were present. The King was ill at the time, and the vast assembly, at the request of the Chairman, raised their hats while a solemn prayer for his speedy restoration to health was offered up. Resolutions were passed in favour of "household suffrage, the ballot, triennial Parliaments, payment of members, and no property qualification." The King died on June 20, and of course a General Election speedily followed. The Reform Association selected the old and long-tried members Messrs. Attwood and Scholefield, and the Loyal and Constitutional Association the Hon. A. G. Stapleton; and Birmingham witnessed another contested election. The nomination took place in the Town Hall, on Monday,

July 24. Mr. Attwood was proposed by Mr. B. Hadley and seconded by Mr. George Edmonds; Mr. W. Phipson and Mr. G. F. Muntz were the movers and seconders of Mr. Scholefield; Mr. James Taylor and Mr. William Chance nominated Mr. Stapleton. The show of hands was almost unanimous for the Liberal candidates, and a poll was demanded. It took place on Tuesday 25, and the numbers were, Mr. Attwood, 2,165; Mr. Scholefield, 2,139; Mr. Stapleton, 1,049.

The excitement in the town was very great, and for some time a serious riot was anticipated. The Royal Hotel, where Mr. Stapleton's Central Committee met, was attacked, and the windows smashed. The Riot Act was read, and a troop of the 5th Dragoons, under Colonel Wallace, brought from West Bromwich, and drawn up in front of the Hotel. The people groaned and went home. The disturbance was, however, renewed on the following morning, the Riot Act again read, and, to crown all, a troop of the Worcestershire Yeomanry were brought to the town, and their presence produced the utmost indignation. Colonel Wallace, anxious to prevent a collision, requested the Yeomanry to leave the town. The unfortunate troop was followed by thousands upon thousands of the people, and was assailed with the most tremendous outburst of groans and yells, and a large number of stones were thrown at them. Happily the men kept their tempers, and nothing more serious than a few broken heads was the result of an outbreak which, at one time, seemed likely to lead to much bloodshed. Colonel Wallace behaved with exemplary patience and decision, and to his conduct it was mainly due that the peace of the town was preserved. The people afterwards sought to express their recognition of his great services by a presentation; but the regulations of the service did not allow him to accept it.

Several persons were arrested and committed on the charge of rioting. They were arraigned at the Warwick Assizes in August, but, "having through their counsel expressed their contrition for their misconduct, and promised to abstain in future from taking part in any such proceedings, the learned counsel for the prosecution forbore to offer evidence against them, observing that the object of the prosecutors was not the punishment of the prisoners, but the preservation of the public peace. The accused then pleaded 'guilty' and were ordered to enter

into their own recognizances to appear to receive judgment, if called upon, and, in the meantime, to keep the peace towards all her Majesty's subjects."

In December the Council of the Political Union published an address to the "Reformers of Great Britain and Ireland," in which they declared that :—

"Agreeable to the strictest principles of justice, we demand Universal Suffrage as a rightful inheritance which the owners may consent, from motives of expediency and for a time, to waive, but which no one else has the smallest title to modify or restrict, much less to deny. We demand an absolute protection for the voter in the conscientious discharge of his duty; and we confidently believe that the Ballot alone offers such a protection. We demand a recurrence to the old and wise rule by which the duration of Parliament was limited to three years. Fellow Reformers! will you assist us in making good these demands? Without your general and hearty co-operation our utmost zeal will avail but little; with it the victory is won, even before the battle is joined. Are there any who will dare to stand against our united voices?"

And thus was sounded the war-note for the agitation of 1838, which led to the Chartist Riots of 1839.

THE CHARTIST RIOTS.

The Chartist agitation was now making rapid progress in the country. The motto of the Political Union, "Peace, Law, and Order," was despised by the more violent and foolish leaders of this new political crusade. The banner which had led to such glorious results in 1832 was ignominiously trampled in the dust, and "arms, arms, arms!" was now the cry of the infatuated and deluded people. The Union did its best to stop the spread of this evil, but without success. A meeting was held in the Town Hall, on January 15, 1838, at which it was resolved that deputations should be sent to other large towns in the Kingdom, in order to establish Branch Unions. Resolutions were also passed in favour of Triennial Parliaments, Universal Suffrage, and Vote by Ballot. It was however clear that the influence of the Union was waning, for although the meeting was held on a Monday night, the Hall was not crowded, and a very large part of the audience left during the proceedings. The people were driven to desperation by distress, and the wise and prudent advice of the old leaders sounded cold to

them, and they elected to follow those dangerous counsels which led in the end to violence and ignominious defeat. "In November," writes Mr. James Jaffray, "Feargus O'Connor, then in the zenith of his popularity as a political agitator, introduced the doctrine that the people were justified in obtaining their rights by physical force. The leaders of the Birmingham confederation—Messrs. Salt, Muntz, Edmonds, and others—denounced the scheme and condemned the doctrine. 'No, by the great God,' emphatically exclaimed George Edmonds, 'the honest men of Birmingham will never stand it.' Unfortunately the "honest men of Birmingham" did "stand it," and the results were the disastrous riots of 1839.

Meetings of a character differing from the famous gathering on Newhall Hill were now being held in various parts of the town. The favourite place of meeting was Holloway Head, and on August 13, a "great demonstration" took place there, attended by 100,000 persons. A petition in favour of the "six points" of the Charter was adopted; and the strength of Chartism in Birmingham is proved by the fact, that no fewer than 94,643 signatures were appended to it in this town. They adopted the Union Cry of the "Bill, the whole bill, and nothing but the bill;" and would hear of nothing but "the Charter, the whole Charter, and nothing but the Charter." They were throughout the country the greatest and most hurtful opponents the Anti-Corn-Law League had to contend with, for they ought to have been open friends and supporters of that great work, instead of assisting the Protectionists by their "excess of zeal." In Birmingham a meeting to petition for the total repeal of the Corn Laws was interrupted and its object defeated by them. In March, 1839, the National Convention met in London, and at a meeting of the Council of the Political Union, held on January 29, at which, says the Chronicler :—

Messrs. Douglas, Salt, and Collins took leave, prior to their departure to join the "Convention" in London. Messrs. Muntz, Hadley, and others also took the opportunity of congratulating the Council on the victory they had attained at the meeting on the preceding day. Mr. Edmonds subsequently addressed those assembled in a reproachful and indignant manner, in consequence of the treatment which he had experienced at the same meeting.

The Birmingham Delegates to the Convention were Messrs. R. K. Douglas, Salt, and Hadley. These gentlemen, however, protested

against the physical force doctrines which were then prevalent in the councils of that body, and they finally withdrew. This wise conduct was fiercely denounced at the time by the Chartists. At a meeting held at Holloway Head, on Monday, April 1, an explanatory address, severely reflecting on their conduct was read, and an "observational committee" was appointed. Another meeting was held at the same place, on Wednesday, the 3rd, of which we have this report :—

The chief speakers were Mr. Feargus O'Connor, Dr. John Taylor, and Mr. Bussey, delegates from the Convention, and Messrs. Donaldson and Brown; and it is almost unnecessary to add that their speeches were neither of the most moderate or peaceable character. None of the late Birmingham Delegates, nor any of the Political Council, it is understood, were there. The conduct of the *Journal* and the retired Delegates was the theme of general and violent reproach; and Mr. Collins in vain attempted to defend "the known and tried friends of the people." Having passed the following resolutions, among others, the crowd quietly separated about four o'clock :—

"That this meeting is perfectly satisfied with the conduct and political proceedings of the General Convention, and solemnly pledges itself to support that body under all circumstances, relying with implicit confidence on their integrity, prudence, judgment, and patriotism.

"That this meeting deeply regrets the loss of time and the great injury which the people's cause has sustained by the conduct of some of the Birmingham Delegates, particularly in neglecting the duties assigned to them; and that they, the members of the Political Union, and the working classes of Birmingham in public meeting assembled, do hereby censure Messrs. Douglas, Salt, and Hadley, in consequence of their premature and ill-advised secession from the body, without consulting the wishes and feelings of their constituents."

The agitation continued to increase. The meetings in the Bull Ring were more numerously attended, many of the people were armed, and the language of the speakers was more violent than ever. Early in May we have the following vivid picture of the

STATE OF THE TOWN.

Since the establishment of the "National Convention" in London, a practice has been permitted in this town which has at length arrived at such a height that the authorities have been called upon by the inhabitants to suppress what has become an increasing nuisance. We refer to the meetings which have taken place almost every evening in the Bull-ring, and which were originally formed for the avowed object of informing the public of the daily proceedings of the body referred to. These meetings were at first chiefly addressed by a man named *Brown*, who, to the utmost of his power, endeavoured to keep up a strong excitement on the subject of the "Convention and the People's Charter," by language of a highly inflammatory and dangerous tendency. It appears, however, his feeble efforts at mischief had no further prejudicial effect than what arose from the collection of a great number of persons, some portion of whom seemed to listen with

interest to his harangues. During the last few weeks, however, these assemblages have, in addition, taken place between the hours of one and two in the day, and being more numerously attended, other orators of the same stamp appeared, and it has been no fault of theirs that their hearers were not excited to acts of tumult and disorder. The good sense of the great bulk of those led by curiosity to the spot prevented any consequences of the kind; still, however, the great inconvenience and loss of business on the part of the shopkeepers in the immediate vicinity were such that, expressions of dissatisfaction becoming general, the Magistrates of the borough were induced on Wednesday last to issue, in the name of their Clerks, the following caution.

"Whereas it has been represented to her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, acting for the Borough of Birmingham, that divers meetings have lately been held in the Bull-ring, at which so many persons have assembled, that the public thoroughfare has been impeded, and at which language of a highly inflammatory and seditious character has been used, whereby not only the residents in the immediate vicinity of the place of meeting have undergone great alarm and have suffered much injury in their business, but the peace and order of the town have been much endangered; and whereas it is most desirable that such meetings, whether in the Bull-ring or elsewhere in the borough, should be discontinued, her Majesty's said Justices of the Peace do hereby earnestly caution all persons against attending the same hereafter; as by such attendance they will incur a heavy and serious responsibility."

Notwithstanding however this intimation, a more numerous assemblage than on any preceding day took place between the hours of one and two on the following afternoon (Thursday), by which the usual business of the market was greatly impeded, and indeed, until the separation of the crowd, was almost suspended. On this occasion the meeting, we understand, was attended by *Collins*, one of the delegates, and, after several violent addresses, was adjourned until the evening, when the Bull-ring was again crowded, similar speeches were made, and the cheering and hooting were more turbulent than ever. In the course of the day a placard was issued calling upon all the Chelsea and other pensioners, resident within the borough, to attend at the Barracks, in order that their services might be made valuable in case of need, and it was understood that the whole of them promptly answered the call which was made upon them.

The magistrates issued the following proclamation :—

"VICTORIA R.

"Whereas evil-disposed persons have of late held meetings, during the evening, in the Bull-ring, and then and there, by seditious harangues, have endeavoured to excite the people to violence and illegal proceedings; and whereas such seditious speeches have, on several occasions, caused a large concourse of people, to the great alarm of her Majesty's subjects, — we, the undersigned Magistrates, deem it our duty to command all persons to refrain from attending such meetings as being contrary to law, and dangerous to the tranquillity of the borough; and we further declare it to be our determination to prosecute all those who,

after this notice, shall hold such meetings, or who, by inflammatory speeches, shall attempt to excite the people to any disturbance or breach of the peace.

William Scholefield, Mayor,

W. C. Alson	P. H. Muntz
S. Beale	C. C. Scholefield
T. Bolton	C. Shaw
W. Chance	Joseph Webster
J. B. Davies	Joseph Walker

J. T. Lawrence.

Public Offices, May 10, 1839."

On the 13th, the Convention held their meetings in Birmingham, and thus fuel was added to the fire; and on June 29 we read :—

The Bull Ring Political Meetings continue, notwithstanding the recent convictions to suppress them.

On Thursday night, (says our contemporary of Saturday) "the Mayor addressed a few words to the people assembled, to induce them to disperse, and in the course of his address offered his influence to procure the Town Hall for one night in the week for popular meetings. The only result of this good-natured attempt was the formation of a procession up New Street, along Colmore Row, and down Bull Street, and back to the Bull Ring, by which time it being the hour of ordinary breaking up, a breaking up took place." On Saturday evening a similar assemblage was held, but no procession took place.

The state of things was now become intolerable; and the authorities determined to put a stop to the Bull Ring Meetings. On the 4th of July a body of London Police was brought to the town by the Railway. They were ordered to break up the meeting, and arrest the speakers. They marched to their work with good will and fought manfully against great odds. In a little time they had it pretty well their own way; but the people recovered from their first fright, armed themselves with stones, broke the shutters of the shops, and thus obtained bludgeons with which they now attacked the police; and but for the timely arrival of a troop of the 4th Royal Irish, and a company of the Rifle Brigade, they would have suffered severely. As it was some of them were beaten very badly, and one or two of them were stabbed and severely wounded. Such was the state of the town on Thursday night, July 4. On the following morning the excitement was intense. The Dragoons were called out and the riot act was read. A meeting of Chartists at Holloway Head was dispersed by the soldiers, who mercifully struck the people with the

flat of their swords. The troops paraded the Bull Ring and High Street during the day. Dr. Taylor, a noisy and inflammatory speaker, and a leader in the Convention, was arrested, and that injudicious body immediately published the following resolutions, which had been drawn up by W. Lovett and John Collins :—

"1st. That this Convention is of opinion that a wanton, flagrant, and unjust outrage has been made upon the people of Birmingham by a blood-thirsty and unconstitutional force from London, acting under the authority of men who, when out of office, sanctioned and took part in the meetings of the people, and now when they share in the public plunder, seek to keep the people in social and political degradation.

"2nd. That the people of Birmingham are the best judges of their own right to meet in the Bull Ring or elsewhere, have their own feelings to consult respecting the outrage given, and are the best judges of their own power and resources to obtain justice.

"3rd. That the summary and despotic arrest of Dr. Taylor, our respected colleague, affords another convincing proof of the absence of all justice in England, and clearly shows that there is no security for life, liberty, or property, till the people have some control over the laws they are called on to obey. "By order,

"W. Lovett, Secretary.

"Friday, July 5, 1839."

Lovett and Collins were at once arrested, and committed for trial, on the charge of inciting to riot.

For the next nine days the excitement continued; and it is clear from the events of the 15th, that some kind of organization was made during the interval. On that day the case of Lovett and Collins was brought before the Magistrates, at the Public Office, Moor Street. There was a great crowd of people in the Bull Ring, but their conduct gave no indication of the terrible scenes which were to make the night memorable in the history of Birmingham. About eight o'clock, however, some five hundred persons, armed with pieces of iron, bludgeons of wood, and some with the long "Chartist Dagger," marched up Digbeth, and proceeded straight to the Prison, in Moor Street, and demolished the windows. The police were assembled in

the prison yard, but could not act, as no magistrate was present. The unopposed mob then returned to the Bull Ring, and began their night's work of destruction and violence. The first shops attacked were those of Messrs. Bourne, Grocers, and Mr. Leggett, Feather Dealer and Upholsterer. The beds and ticking taken from the latter shop were set on fire and thrown into the shops of Messrs. Bourne and Leggett. The other shops attacked were those of Mrs. Martin, Jeweller, Mr. Banks, Druggist, Mr. Savage, Cheese Dealer, Mr. Dakin, Grocer, Mr. Horton, Silversmith, Mr. Gooden, Nelson Hotel, Mr. Brinton, Pork Butcher, Mr. Allen, Biscuit Baker, Mr. Heath, Cheese Dealer, and Mr. Scudamore, Druggist. The rioters also attacked the shop of Mr. Arnold, Pork Butcher, but his men, armed with cleavers and other weapons, defended it, and the infuriated mob rushed to more easy prey. The scene was terrible. Several shops were now on fire; heaps of combustible articles were being flung in the street; and thieves were busy carrying away their spoil. At last the soldiers arrived; troops of Dragoons and the Rifle Brigade were ordered to clear the streets, which was speedily done. A large number of persons were arrested. When Tuesday morning came, Birmingham appeared like a town in a state of siege. Soldiers, police, and special constables were parading the streets; the shells of the burnt houses looked as if the place had been attacked by an enemy. Fears were entertained of further outbreaks. A meeting of Chartists was held at Holloway Head, which a company of Riflemen immediately dispersed. A troop of Dragoons proceeded to the same place, and several prisoners were taken, and peace was once more restored.

At the Assizes held in Warwick, in August, the long list of prisoners committed by the Birmingham magistrates were tried; many of them were liberated on their own recognizances; the others were found guilty, and received the following sentences; five to eighteen months' imprisonment, one to twelve, one to nine, three to six, and one to one month's imprisonment; all with hard labour. Three men, Howell, Roberts, and Jones, for the attack on Messrs. Bourne's, and a boy named Aston, were condemned to death. As regards the first three, the judge said that he could not "honestly recommend them to Her Majesty's merciful consideration." The Birmingham Town Council, however, took up the

matter, and petitioned for a remission of the capital sentence. Other petitions were also sent to the Home Office. They were successful, as will be seen from the following paragraph :—

August 10, 1839.—In addition to the measures adopted by the Town Council to obtain a remission of the capital punishment against *Howell*, *Roberts*, and *Jones*, meetings have been held and petitions numerously signed in most of the Wards of the Borough in favour of the condemned men. It has likewise been stated that affidavits have been made which affirm alibi on the part of *Howell* and *Roberts*, on the night of the riots, and the evidence on the subject will of course be fully investigated before a proper tribunal. The petition, which was transmitted to Lord John Russell last week, was numerously signed by many of the inhabitants of the town, and also by those whose property was destroyed during the riots. By the subjoined letter from Lord John Russell to Messrs. James and Henry Bourne, who it will be recollected were the first and most considerable sufferers by fire, it will be perceived that the sentence on the prisoners has been commuted. It is certainly highly honourable to Messrs. Bourne that they should have headed the petition, and it must be gratifying to them that they have been the medium through which a merciful intimation is made from the Home Office.

The Society of Friends of this town forwarded a memorial to the Queen on behalf of the above convicts.

In consequence of these proceedings the condemned men were transported for life; and no one suffered capital punishment for the Birmingham riots of 1839.

The Town Council appointed a committee to investigate the cause of the riots. A large number of witnesses were examined, but their evidence was not given upon oath; and was chiefly confined to—

"1. The character of the Bull Ring meetings prior to the 4th of July, and the measures taken to prevent them. 2. The character of the meeting on the 4th of July. 4. The state of the town in the interval between the 4th and the 15th of July. 4. The circumstances of the riot on the 15th, more especially how far it was premeditated—how many and what kind of persons they were who took part in it—what was the conduct of the police, military, &c., &c., and what measures had been taken to prevent the disturbance."

Serious complaints were made as to the conduct of the magistrates, and a memorial was forwarded to the government, and Mr. Dundas was sent down to Birmingham to enquire into the subject. He commenced his labours on September 19. The case of the memorialists was conducted by Mr. N. G. Clarke, Mr. Hebbert acting as solicitor; that of the magistrates by Messrs. Gem, Ryland and Barlow.

The cost of the riots to the Hundred of Hemlingford was nearly £20,000. The amount claimed was £16,283, of which sum £15,027

was paid; and two rates of £11,000 and £9,000 were granted to settle this heavy bill of damages.

The members of the Constitutional Association thus acknowledged the services of their indefatigable secretary by a dinner and a presentation :—

On Friday, September 6, Mr. J. B. Hebbert was entertained at dinner by a party of friends at the Union Inn, Mr. R. P. Westall presiding. After the removal of the cloth and the usual constitutional toasts, Mr. Hebbert was presented by the Chairman with a purse containing one hundred and fifty sovereigns, together with a handsome silver salver, tastefully manufactured by Mr. Heeley, being elegantly embossed and chased and bearing the following inscription:—

"Presented, with a purse of one hundred and fifty pounds, to John Benbow Hebbert, Esq., by one hundred and thirty of his Conservative friends, in testimony of their personal esteem, and also of their admiration of his energetic and devoted exertions in defence of those institutions in Church and State which form the characteristics and glory of the British monarchy."

At the end of 1839 Mr. Thomas Attwood resigned his seat, and accepted the Chiltern Hundreds. The Liberals were divided on this occasion; some of that party desiring that Mr. Joseph Sturge should be selected as their candidate, but the majority were in favour of Mr. G. F. Muntz. Both gentlemen were nominated, but Mr. Sturge declined to proceed to the poll. The Conservatives nominated Sir Charles Wetherell. The polling took place on January 24, 1840, and on the following morning the official declaration was made as follows—for Mr. Muntz, 1,454; for Sir Charles Wetherell, 915; leaving a majority for Mr. Muntz of 539.

The two following extracts relate to Messrs. Lovett and Collins :—

May 11, 1840.—In consequence of application made to Government for the remission of the remainder of the imprisonment which *Lovett* and *Collins* were sentenced to undergo in our County gaol, the Marquis of Normanby has addressed a letter to the Visiting Magistrates to the effect that his Lordship would recommend to her Majesty their immediate discharge on entering into their own recognizances of 50*l.* each for their good behaviour during the next twelve months. The prisoners have however refused to comply with this proposal; and as no further offer will of course proceed from the Secretary of State, they must continue in confinement until the 25th of July, on which day their term of imprisonment expires.

July 27, 1840.—*Lovett* and *Collins* were discharged from our County gaol at an early hour on Saturday morning, having undergone twelve months' imprisonment. The former, we understand, afterwards took his departure for London. Collins, it is said, will be met to-day by some of his friends on his returning to Birmingham. We observe in a London

print apprehension expressed of disquiet to the town, but we have not the least fear on this head; our confidence is founded both on the improved temper and returning good sense of the operative classes, and on the knowledge that every proper precaution that vigilence can suggest will be taken by the authorities.

There was some little political agitation during the year; and the following report introduces us to the anti-Palmerston Agitation, once so ruthlessly carried on by Mr. David Urquhart :—

August 10, 1840.—On Wednesday the walls of this town, more especially in the neighbourhood appointed for the place of meeting, were placarded with the following announcement :—

"Now or never, men of Birmingham, your duty to yourselves, your children, and above all to your injured and unsettled country, at this most important time of its need, calls upon you to attend a meeting this evening, at seven o'clock, on the ground of the People's Hall, in Shadwell-street, when some most important business will be brought before you, concerning deeply the welfare of yourselves and of your country."

Mr. Emes having been called to the chair, Mr. Charles Attwood, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, addressed those assembled at considerable length, reflecting on the Foreign policy of her Majesty's Government, and on Lord Palmerston for fostering the aggressive claims of Russia; whilst at the same time his policy was likely to bring us into collision with France—thus giving Russia and France opportunity of making aggressive movements on our eastern possessions. Mr. Attwood concluded by proposing a resolution to the following effect :—

"Resolved—That this country is in danger, and intentionally betrayed to a foreign power; and that the people of Birmingham, to avert the danger and denounce the crime, do meet on Monday next."

A person of the name of Empson subsequently addressed the meeting, objecting to the agitation of the subject advanced by Mr. Attwood, and the resolution having been put, the meeting quietly separated. The proceedings appeared to excite but little interest, and the attendance was very inconsiderable. On Thursday evening another assemblage took place on the same spot, and a feeling was manifested unfavourable to the objects of the visitors. Mr. Urquhart is said to have been present on the occasion, but did not speak. A meeting however has been proposed at Holloway head this day, a placard with reference to it, bearing the signature of "Charles Attwood," appears on the walls of the town, and a letter from that gentleman, explanatory of his views, will be found in our advertising columns.

The following is the report of Mr. Dundas on the conduct of the Magistrates at the Chartist riots :—

THE RIOTS IN BIRMINGHAM.

October 26, 1840.—The subjoined is a copy of the Report addressed to the Marquis of Normanby by Mr. Dundas, the Commissioner appointed by the Home Office to institute an enquiry into the conduct of the Borough Magistrates on the occasion of the outrages which were committed in the town of Birmingham, on the night of the 15th of July, 1839 :—

My Lord, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that, in pursuance of a letter from Mr. Fox Maule, of the 13th of September last, informing me that a Memorial had been forwarded from Birmingham to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, wherein it was alleged that, on the evening of the 15th of July, from half-past eight to a quarter-before ten o'clock, the Mayor and Magistrates failed in their duty, by leaving the property and lives of its citizens unprotected to the violence of an organised mob, although full and authenticated information had been early given to the Mayor and Magistrates of the borough of the intentions and plans of the rioters; and the Government had resolved to institute an enquiry on the spot into the allegations made against the Magistrates; and that your Lordship had communicated to the Mayor and the complaining parties that I would carry on the investigation, and that they had expressed themselves ready to enter on the case; and also further informing me that my duty would be to enquire into the matter above alleged, and, after terminating the enquiry, to transmit to your Lordship the whole of the evidence, together with my opinion whether the Mayor and Magistrates did or did not neglect their duty upon the occasion referred to in the memorial. On the 16th of September, I gave notice to the Mayor and Mr. Hebbert on behalf of the memorialists, that on the morning but one following, or as soon after as the convenience of parties would permit, I should be ready to begin the enquiry at Birmingham. Accordingly, on the 19th, 20th, and 21st of September, I held and concluded an open enquiry in a room of the Public Office there, the case of the memorialists being conducted by Mr. Clarke, a barrister; and that of the Mayor and Magistrates by Messrs. Gem, Ryland, and Barlow, their Clerks. Many witnesses (not upon oath) were examined on both sides *viva voce*; but with consent of both parties I admitted as evidence, Captain Moorsom's written statement, the witness being prevented by a domestic affliction from personally attending the enquiry, which I closed when the parties had no more evidence to offer upon either side.

"I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship the short-hand writer's notes of the evidence, together with my opinion on the points submitted to me.

"It appeared on the enquiry, that for several weeks before the day in question, that is to say, before Monday, the 15th day of July last, Chartist meetings, at times consisting of many hundred persons, were frequently held in Birmingham and the immediate neighbourhood. These meetings, although calculated to alarm the peaceable inhabitants of the place, for the most part passed off quietly; but some of them, and especially a meeting held on the 4th of July, it was necessary to put down by the military in aid of the civil power. To preserve the peace thus disturbed, the Birmingham police were altogether inadequate, a few constables and street-keepers being the whole force of the borough; but between the 10th of May and the day in question upwards of two thousand special constables were sworn in, ward and section leaders appointed, and instructions furnished them from the Public Office, for organising and effectively employing the men in time of need. For additional security, two detachments of the Metropolitan Police were sent from London on the 4th and 5th of July, and though forty had returned in a few days, the rest (about fifty) remained at Birmingham, and on the day in question were stationed at the Public Office, under Mr. May, an active superintendent of the force.

"The usual routine of the Public Office was for some of the Magistrates to give daily attendance there, from about eleven in the forenoon to three or four in the afternoon, for the despatch of business; but it appeared that for some time before the day in question,

not only were they there in the day time, but that some of them stayed to a late hour at night.

"The Officer in command at the barracks (three quarters of a mile off) used to call twice a day at the office to communicate with the Mayor on the state of the peace of the town, nor should it be omitted that an excellent understanding was kept up between the civil and military authorities, and that on every occasion when the soldiers had been called upon to act in aid of the civil power, the assistance required was both promptly and efficiently given.

"Some of the Magistrates resided in the town; Dr. Booth's house, for instance, was about six minutes' walk from the Public Office; the Mayor and some others lived in the suburbs; while the houses of a few were still further off. George Redfern, the prison-keeper, lived at the Public Office, a well-known, confidential and intelligent man of business.

"Such was the general state of things at Birmingham, when in the forenoon of the day in question a bellman was heard in several of the streets crying a chartist meeting to be held that day, at Holloway-head, at one, or as it was differently reported, at half-past twelve and half-past six o'clock. Holloway-head and the Bull-ring, about a mile from each other, were the usual places of holding such meetings.

It appeared also that at eleven o'clock in the forenoon the following letter was sent to Captain Moorsom, a special constable of the borough, who had acted as the medium of communication between the ward-leaders and the magistrates, viz.:—

'Public Office, Monday, July 15, 1839, eleven A.M.

'Dear Sir,—The Magistrates here assembled are desirous, with your permission, to avail themselves of the advantages of your aid and means in watching and ascertaining the character and proceedings of the meeting, should one take place at Holloway-head. Some Magistrates will be in attendance at this office, and quite prepared to act according to circumstances and to the nature of the information you may transmit to them. This is a precautionary measure which the Magistrates feel it incumbent upon them to adopt, although they venture to anticipate a peaceful issue. They would not have felt themselves warranted in taking this liberty, but from the encouragement they have derived from your uniformly courteous, able, and kind co-operation with them during the existing troubles.

'I remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

'Captain Moorsom, R.N.' 'J. R. Booth.

"On receiving the letter at noon, Captain Moorsom arranged with the Edgbaston ward-leader that proper men should be appointed to convey information to the Public Office as to the character of the meeting, while he himself watched its proceedings; but nothing occurred to cause any apprehension. By two o'clock about three hundred persons had assembled at Holloway-head; in an hour or so afterwards the numbers had diminished, and seemed to Captain Moorsom to be quite insignificant. About this time Colonel Chatterton, of the Dragoons, called as usual at the Public Office, and was told by the Mayor that there was no occasion to keep the soldiers as the barracks in readiness, since, from all he heard, the town was quiet. Hence it appears that the Mayor set no value on the information of Mr. Coburn, who had told him in an earlier part of the day, that from what had been said in his hearing the day before at a meeting at Holloway-head, disturbance was to be expected at night.

"At five o'clock the Mayor left the Public Office to go home to his own house, about a mile and a half off, the other Magistrates having left before him; and before going away he gave express directions to George Redfern, the prison-keeper, that if Magistrates were wanted he was to send or go for him or Dr. Booth.

"It further appeared that later in the evening, about seven o'clock, a great number of persons (probably about one thousand), assembled at Holloway-head, and these, instead of dispersing when they left the ground, proceeded in a body towards the Warwick-road to meet, as was supposed, two chartists who had been bailed out of prison that day, and were expected to return to Birmingham that night. From some cause or other, never satisfactorily accounted for, a mob of men and boys came back from the Warwick-road, and suddenly arrived by hundreds in the Bull-ring, about half-past eight o'clock; there they violently set fire to several valuable premises, burned and destroyed a great deal of furniture and other property, broke many of the windows of the Public Office, a little way off; and having done the work of destruction uninterruptedly for not less than an hour, at last they gave way and retired, either seeing the police had turned out against them, or expecting the speedy arrival of the military.

"It here is to be observed that Captain Moorsom had been watching the proceedings of the people at Holloway-head in the evening till he saw them go away; then thinking they might have adjourned to the Bull-ring, while in fact they had passed it on their left, he went to the Bull-ring and finding nothing that to his mind indicated disturbance, about eight o'clock he proceeded to the Public Office to report what he had witnessed, and ascertain from the Magistrates what were their arrangements for the night; but though he asked for a Magistrate he did not go or send for one, and having told the Superintendent of Police whom he saw there, that everything was quiet, he returned home about a quarter before nine, after expressing his opinion to the Edgbaston ward-leader that there was no fear of disturbance. George Redfern, the prison-keeper, stayed at the Public Office till some time after eight, when a constable came in and asked for the Magistrates, adding that the town was in an excited state. On hearing this he lost not a moment, but set off to Dr. Booth's and then to the Mayor's. He found both of them at home; and the Mayor having joined Dr. Booth at his house, they proceeded to the barracks as quick as they could, called out the military, and accompanied them on horseback to the Bull-ring. Whilst George Redfern was thus away for forty-two minutes, and after he returned to the Police Office, the Superintendent of Police was repeatedly called upon to act against the rioters, but he steadily refused in consequence of orders that, without the military, or a Magistrate's sanction, the police were not to go out, nor, in fact, did the police begin to go out at all till Mr. Walker (a Magistrate) came to the Public Office, and with him they went against the mob soon after half-past nine. It was the opinion of some, that had the police gone out and acted earlier, the mob might have been dispersed, or at least that the property thus destroyed by the rioters might have been defended; but it appeared a very doubtful question.

Upon such a state of facts, though the evidence will supply a great deal more in relation to the issue, the Mayor and Magistrates are charged with neglect of duty.

"Now the case must be looked at as it presented itself to the Mayor and Magistrates at the time, and not as if they could have foreseen the extent of calamity their want of preparation, their absence from the Public Office, or any other circumstances may be thought to have occasioned.

"Believing then that they acted with perfect good faith throughout, and considering besides that they took reasonable measures to watch the proceedings of the Chartists at Holloway-head, that they relied on information which led them to apprehend no disturbance or outbreak, that on leaving the Public Office, in the afternoon at five o'clock, the Mayor gave directions to George Redfern, the Prison-keeper, to send or to go for him or Dr. Booth if Magistrates should be wanted, and taking into account that the Mayor and Dr. Booth were each of them at home when George Redfern came for them, I am of opinion that, under all the circumstances, the Mayor and Magistrates were not guilty of neglecting their duty on the occasion referred to in the memorial.

"The general orders to the police, which prevented them from acting when first they were called upon to do so, I think ought not to have been given, but it is reasonable to believe that the Mayor and Magistrates laid on the restraint purely out of consideration to the men themselves. "I have, &c.,

DAVID DUNDAS."

This official report closes the political history of the town to the end of 1840.

THE CHARTER OF INCORPORATION.

About the year 1716 a petition, signed by eighty-four of the inhabitants, was addressed to George the First, praying that Birmingham might be made a corporation. The historian, Hutton, saw a copy of this petition, and, according to him, it set forth, "that Birmingham is, of late years, become very populous, from its great increase of trade; is much superior to any town in the county, and but little inferior to any inland town in the kingdom; and it is governed only by a constable, and enjoys no more privileges than a village; and there is no Justice of the Peace in the town, nor any in the neighbourhood, who dare act with vigour; and the country abounds with rioters, who, knowing the place to be void of magistrates assemble in it, pull down the meeting houses, defy the king, openly avow the Pretender, threaten the inhabitants, and oblige them to keep watch in their own houses; and the trade decays, and will stagnate, if not relieved. To remedy these evils, they beseech his majesty to incorporate the town, and grant such privileges as will enable them to support their trade, the king's interest, and destroy the villainous attempts of the jacobites. In consideration of the requested charter they make usual offering of *lives* and *fortunes*."

Hutton is rather indignant with these petitioners, and says that pride must have dictated the humble petition. In his usual antithetical style he thus dismisses the subject. "A petition and the petitioner, like Janus with his two faces, look different ways; it is often treated as if it said one thing and meant another; or, as if it said anything but truth. Its use in some places is to *lie on the table*. Our humble petition, by some means, met with the fate it deserved.

"We may remark, that a town without a charter is a town without a shackle." If there was then a necessity to create a corporation, because the town was large, there is none now, though larger; the place was governed a thousand years ago, when only a twentieth of its present magnitude; it may also be governed as well a thousand years hence, if it should swell to ten times its size.

"The *pride* of our ancestors was hurt by a petty constable; the *interest* of us, their successors, would be hurt by a mayor; a more simple government cannot be instituted, or one more efficacious; that of some places is designed for parade, ours for use; and both answer their end. A town governed by a multitude of masters is the most likely to be ill-governed."

As Birmingham increased in population and wealth, it was not to be expected that the government of the town could be left in the hands of a High and Low Bailiff, and a Head Borough with two Constables, in the appointment of whom the inhabitants had no voice. Such a state of things might do for the Anti-Reform Bill times, but not after representatives had been obtained to sit in the Imperial Parliament. The Court Leet of the Lord of the Manor was an irresponsible body; and the Commissioners of the Street Act were not easily controlled. The governing powers of the town were too much distributed. We had Commissioners for the Birmingham parish, for Deritend and Bordesley, for Duddeston and Nechells; and Edgbaston was govened differently from them all. Of course such a chaotic state of things could not continue long after the people began to take part in political affairs, and to look after the government of the town as well as the government of the nation.

The first intimation of the proposed incorporation is in the following paragraph :—

December 16, 1833.—Captain Gipps, R.E., and Mr. Aldridge, two of the Commissioners appointed by Government to make enquiries as to the suitable division of towns into districts, and other matters connected with the granting of Charters of Incorporation to the new Boroughs, were last week in the town, pursuing the objects of their appointment. The persons to whom they applied, viz., the High and Low Bailiffs, several members of the bodies of Overseers, Guardians, and Town Commissioners, and Mr. Kempson, the Surveyor, answered their enquiries with great readiness, and furnished them with the required local information. The Commissioners expressed themselves gratified with the attention which was paid them, and we understand that it is likely, as one result of their visit, that the Borough will be divided for the purposes of the proposed Act, into twelve Districts, nine for Birmingham, and three for the adjoining parishes. One Alderman to be chosen for each district. The other subjects of enquiry related to the Police, to the appointment of a Stipendiary Magistrate or Recorder, the holding of a Quarter Session in Birmingham, and the consequent erection of a Gaol. To what conclusion they came upon these heads we are, of course, uninformed, as well as of the means devised for defraying the expenses attendant upon the contemplated changes. The Commissioners were to leave the town for Sheffield on Saturday evening.

The question appears to have slept for some time, but it was quietly progressing. On June 15, 1835, we have the following reference to it :—

The Municipal Corporation Reform Bill has been printed, together with Schedules of the towns to which its provisions are intended to apply, and enumerating the number of Town Councillors proposed to be assigned to each. Copies of the latter document will be found in the preceding page. The last clause but one of the bill, as will be seen by the following extract, authorises the Crown to extend the powers of the Act to towns not at present incorporated, on petition of the inhabitants of such towns :—

"And Whereas, sundry towns of England and Wales are not towns corporate, and it is expedient that several of them should be incorporated ; be it enacted, that if the Inhabitants of any town in England and Wales should petition His Majesty to grant to them a Charter of Incorporation, it shall be lawful for His Majesty, by any such Charter, to extend to the Inhabitants of any such town all or any of the powers and provisions in this Act contained."

The Bill was thrown out in the Lords, and an indignation meeting was held in Birmingham, of which the following is a report :—

August 24, 1835.—At a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Borough of Birmingham, held at the Town Hall, on Tuesday, August 18, 1835, Paul Moon James, Esq., High Bailiff, in the Chair ;

The following Resolutions were unanimously passed :—

On the motion of Thomas Tyndall, Esq., Low Bailiff, seconded by the Rev. T. M. M'Donnell, and supported by Thomas Attwood, Esq., M.P., and Mr. Boultbee ;

1. That this Meeting has witnessed, with grief and indignation, the disappointment of the hopes of the people of England, in the arbitrary interference of a powerful majority in the House of Lords, with the measure of Corporate Reform, which especially interests the people, and for the introduction of which we cannot but be grateful to a liberal and patriotic Minister. That, therefore, we deem it an imperative duty, at this juncture of public affairs, to present to Lord Melbourne an assurance of our confidance and support.

On the motion of Mr. William Beale, seconded by Mr. Edmonds;

2. That the earnest thanks of the meeting be presented to that glorious and patriotic minority in the House of Lords, who have nobly vindicated those principles which they have professed, and now stand as inflexibly by the cause of the people as they did in the memorable passing of the Reform Bill.

On the motion of Mr. W. Wills, seconded by Mr. W. Phipson:

3. That a memorial be adopted, and that it be presented to Lord Melbourne by the Members for the Borough.

Again the subject remained in abeyance. On October 30, 1837, a meeting was held in the Town Hall, at which a petition was adopted praying the Queen in Council to grant a Charter of Incorporation for the Borough of Birmingham. The invitation calling this meeting was headed by the names of the two members, Messrs. Attwood and Scholefield, followed by upwards of sixty of the leading Reformers of the time. The Conservatives opposed the proposal, and their views are stated in the following paragraph:—

December 25, 1837.—We make the following extract from an order in Council which appeared in the London Gazette of Friday last:—

"And whereas the Inhabitant householders of the Borough of Birmingham have presented a petition to Her Majesty in Council, praying a Charter of Incorporation for the said borough: Her Majesty having taken the said petition into consideration, is pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that the said petition be taken into consideration by a Committee of the Lords of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, on Wednesday, the 31st day of January next, at twelve of the clock at noon."

This is an important crisis in the affairs of Birmingham, and demands the serious consideration of all who are concerned. It is evident that the petition for a Corporation originated with a section only of the inhabitants of the town, politically speaking; and it remains to be proved by how large a proportion of the householders being rated the petition has been signed. If it be found that the provisions of the act have been fulfilled as to the number of inhabitant householders, the Privy Council will in all probability favour the project; but still the fact of a clear month's notice of the hearing being necessary, makes it evident that every proper consideration will be given to such reasons as may be advanced on the part of the other inhabitants, either for the rejection of the measure altogether, or for a modification of it as respects the participation of the several parties in which the town is politically divided, or as to the measure of qualification upon which the franchise shall succeed.

The opposition held a meeting in January, 1838, the report of which we quote:—

January 8, 1838.—A meeting of gentlemen, convened by private circular, was held at Dee's Royal Hotel, on Wednesday, for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken in consequence of the official announcement of the Privy Council in the London

Gazette, on the subject of a Charter for the Incorporation of Birmingham. J. F. Ledsam, Esq., having been unanimously called upon to preside, the feeling of those present was soon found to be altogether against the projected measure; and after a conversation as to the best mode of proceeding, it was determined, as will be seen by the published resolutions, to assemble a meeting at the Town Hall, on Friday next, of those inhabitant householders who are adverse to the plan of incorporation. There appeared to be a very prevalent opinion in the meeting that the trading interests of the town would be most seriously injured by the annual excitement incident to a Corporation, and that the most important objects included in municipal government would be as effectually and more economically attained, by having one or more Stipendiary Magistrates appointed by the borough, who should sit every day at the Public-office, and it was suggested that an efficient police should be formed and put under their management; that a House of Correction of adequate dimensions should be erected within the borough at the expense of the county, and that sessions for the trial of prisoners should be held in Birmingham every month or six weeks. It was contended that all these ends, if deemed desirable by the inhabitants, could be well attained consistantly with the simple municipal regulations under which the town of Birmingham had risen to its present opulence and importance. When we announced to the public a fortnight ago that an official notice had appeared in the London Gazette, we said that an important crisis had arrived in the history of the town of Birmingham: we use that language advisedly—an opportunity is now afforded to those inhabitants who object to the measure, to manifest their sentiments upon the subject in accordance with the provision of the Act of Parliament under which the incorporation is sought.

At this meeting it was "moved by James Taylor, Esq., seconded by J. W. Unett, Esq., and resolved unanimously:—

"1. That this meeting are of opinion that a Charter of Incorporation would be highly detrimental to the interests and prosperity of the borough of Birmingham."

A petition was adopted both by the supporters and opponents of the Charter. Mr. William Scholefield was the High Bailiff this year, and he took a leading part in the support of the Charter. On July 19, we have this report:—

On Tuesday last the adjourned question of the Incorporation of this borough came before Her Majesty's Privy Council. The petitioners and the counter-petitioners each put in additional memorials numerously signed, the former considerably exceeding the opposers in point of numbers. A deputation from the promoters of a Corporation was admitted to an audience with the Marquis of Lansdown, the President of the Council, on the previous day; and the deputation appointed by the opposing committee, on their arrival in town, sought a similar privilege, which was promptly granted. The gentlemen forming this deputation endeavoured to impress upon the Lord-President the views of those they represented; explained the facts they deemed it important to place before his lordship regarding the signatures of the petitions for and against incorporation; and gave reasons to his lordship for their appearance in opposition to the prayer of others of their fellow-townsmen. The deputation experienced a courteous and candid hearing. On their retiring the representatives of the Pro-corporation petitioners, headed by Messrs. Attwood and

Scholefield, the members for the borough, and accompanied by the High Bailiff, were again admitted, and replied to the objections urged by the preceding deputation.

The committee appointed to oppose the incorporation of the town, under the guidance of their solicitors, Messrs. Barker and Son, had affixed the amount of assessment to each of the names attached to the counter petitions; and had applied the same test to the names signed to the original petition for incorporation. By this means the number of the rate-payers who had signed was ascertained, and of course the number of those who had affixed their signatures not being rate-payers; and the result was handed in to the Council in the form of a summary. This statement was met, on the part of the promoters of a Corporation, on Tuesday last by a petition from the High Bailiff, in which he impugned the accuracy of the statement made by the opponents as to the comparative number and amount of rate-payers who had signed the first petitions; and in opposition to it affirmed the correctness of the method adopted by the pro-corporation committee, which was effected by comparing the first hundred names of each of the opposing petitions, and the first five of every hundred up to two thousand, and by this mode calculating the total amount of assessment of the petitioners for incorporation at about £120,000. The same gentleman in another petition denied several of the allegations of the opponents of incorporation relative to the guardian and other matters. Affidavits from the opposing parties, verifying their several statements, were also given in to the Council.

On the retirement of the deputation of the counter-petitioners, they were requested to attend the call of their Lordships, and were shown into the room of the Clerk of the Council; and, as a matter of course, were allowed to peruse the petitions of the High Bailiff. Finding that their statements and the results of their analysis were there called in question, and that the denial of their statement was sustained upon what they deemed a very unsatisfactory process of calculation, they determined to put the case to the issue of their correctness, and a petition to the Council was promptly drawn, signed, and sent in to their Lordships, praying that some impartial person might be appointed by the Council to ascertain the truth of the conflicting statements that had been made. To this the parties in a short time received an answer that two impartial persons should be sent down to Birmingham for that purpose. The further consideration of the question was then deferred until the 5th of next month. Here for the present the matter rests.

Discussions, however, were soon rendered useless. On April 30, we read :—

We have been favoured by Joshua Scholefield, Esq., one of the Members for this borough, with the following information :—"The Lords of the Privy Council, at their sitting on Friday last, finally agreed to the grant of Incorporation to Birmingham. The Ward Divisions are completed, and it is supposed that the Charter will pass through the office in about four weeks.

The Charter was publicly read in the Town Hall on Monday, November 5; and the following is a summary of its contents :—

The Charter is addressed by the Privy Council to Mr. William Scholefield, the late High Bailiff, whose duty it is to carry it into effect by making out the first burgess list, and by acting as Returning Officer at the first election of Town Councillors. The district to be incorporated includes the town and manor of Birmingham, together with those parts of the borough which are comprised in the parish of Edgbaston, the hamlets of Deritend

and Bordesley and Duddeston and Nechells; and the intended Corporation is to consist of a Mayor, *sixteen* Aldermen, and *forty-eight* Councillors. The borough is to be divided into *thirteen* Wards, to be respectively known as Ladywood ward, All Saints ward, Hampton ward, St. George's ward, St. Mary's ward, St. Paul's ward, Market Hall ward, St. Peter's ward, St. Martin's ward, St. Thomas's ward, Edgbaston ward, Deritend and Bordesley ward, and Duddeston *cum* Nechells ward, all of which it is stated are to return three Councillors each, except St. Peter's ward, Deritend and Bordesley ward, and Duddeston and Nechells ward, which are to return each *six* Councillors. The intended boundaries these wards are minutely described in the copy of the Charter.

The Charter further directs that the alphabetical list (to be called the Burgess list) of the inhabitant householders of the borough who shall possess the qualification required by the act, shall be made out by Mr. Scholefield, by the 10th of November instant (Saturday next), which list shall be fixed in some public or conspicuous situation within the borough during *eight* days before the 20th of the same month, for the purpose of enabling any qualified inhabitant householder, whose name shall have been omitted, to give notice of such omission on or before the said 20th of November; and also to enable any qualified inhabitant householder whose name shall have appeared in the list, to object to any other person whose name is inserted, as not entitled to have it retained. Lists of these two parties are to be made out and exhibited, as before, within eight days of the 6th of December ensuing. Horatio Waddington, Esq., barrister-at-law, is appointed to revise these respective lists on the 11th of December following.

The first election of Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors is to take place as follows:— The election of Councillors on the 26th of December next, and of Aldermen and Mayor on the day succeeding, the 27th. The Aldermen are to be assigned to their respective wards on the same day. When formed the Charter further empowers the Corporation to hold a Court of Record on the third day (Wednesday) of every week, for the trial of assumpsit, covenant, and debt; actions for trespass or trover, for taking goods and chattels: and actions of ejectment between landlord and tenant, where the amount to be recovered or the damages sought to be obtained shall not exceed £20. Certain provisions are appended to this power, one of which directs that if a Recorder shall be hereafter appointed for the borough, no issue either in law or fact shall be tried in the absence of the Recorder.

The elections took place on the day appointed. The first meeting of the new Town Council was held in the Committee Room of the Town Hall, at which the sixteen Aldermen were elected. Mr. William Scholefield was unanimously elected the first Mayor; Mr. William Redfern and Mr. Solomon Bray were proposed for the office of Town Clerk, but the former gentleman was appointed by a large majority. Mr. R. K. Douglas was unanimously elected to the office of Registrar of the Mayor's Court, and the first meeting of the Birmingham Town Council was brought to a close.

To Mr. P. H. Muntz and the Town Council the inhabitants are indebted for the preservation of the walks through St. Philip's Church

Yard. The Street Act Commissioners had passed resolutions to close them; and at a meeting of the Council in the first week of January, 1839, Mr. Alderman Muntz said, "that the walks were in his opinion very beautiful," and he moved the following resolution :—

"That it is the opinion of the Town Council that the walks of St. Philip's Church Yard are an ornament to the Borough, and should be kept in proper condition, and that they give this their decided opinion, that it would be injurious to the town if they were closed up."

In March, the Town Clerk, at the request of the Mayor, read an opinion as to the legality of the Commissioners' resolutions, which thus concludes :—

"On the whole I am of opinion that it is not competent for the Street Commissioners to carry into effect their proposed arrangement respecting St. Philip's Church Yard, and that if they should do so they will exceed their authority—will misappropriate the funds entrusted to their care—and will furnish good grounds for an appeal against the rate."

Alderman Muntz then moved—"That in the opinion of this Council the proposed arrangement of the Street Commissioners with respect to St. Philip's Church Yard is illegal—involves a misapplication of the public moneys, and would permit a good ground of appeal against the rate; nor, in the judgment of this Council, is the illegality of this transaction at all redeemed by its utility, or by its consonancy with the public wishes; that this Council, therefore, still hopes that the Commissioners will see fit to abandon a measure which cannot be persevered in without producing a strong resistance on the part of the town." Alderman Hutton seconded the proposition, which was unanimously adopted.

The Council also petitioned that Borough Sessions might be granted to this town. Lord John Russell replied, on April 13, that he would "immediately recommend the grant of a separate Court of Quarter Sessions for the Borough of Birmingham." At a meeting of the Council, held on May 7, the Mayor announced that their petition for a separate Court of Quarter Sessions had been granted. Mr. M. D. Hill, Q.C., was recommended for the office of Recorder, and at the next meeting of the Council, May 15, a letter was read from that gentleman "announcing that her Majesty had appointed him" to that office. Mr. George Edmonds was unanimously elected Clerk of the Peace. Dr. Birt Davies was also elected Coroner. The first Borough Sessions was held on July 8, 1839.

On the retirement of Mr. Attwood, from the representation of the Borough, an attempt was made to introduce party politics into the Town Council, but it was frustrated by the good sense of the majority.

February 17, 1840.—A special meeting of the Town Council was convened on Friday last, for the purpose of considering, "at the instance of several members of the Council, the propriety of calling a public meeting of the inhabitants for the purpose of obtaining, on the occasion of Mr. Attwood's retirement, an expression of the high sense entertained by his fellow townsmen and others, at once of his eminent private virtues, and of his patriotic devotion to the cause of his country." Soon after eleven o'clock the Mayor took the chair, but as there were only fifteen members of the corporation in attendance, no business could be transacted, and the meeting immediately dissolved.

On the 7th of April, Mr. W. Redfern resigned the office of Town Clerk; and, at the Meeting held on May 5, Mr. Solomon Bray was unanimously elected in his place.

The following is a list of the Members of the Council elected as Mayors since the Charter of Incorporation was granted :—

1838—William Scholefield
1839—Philip Henry Muntz
1840—Philip Henry Muntz
1841—Samuel Beale
1842—James James
1843—Thomas Weston
1844—Thomas Phillips
1845—Henry Smith
1846—Robert Martineau
1847—Charles Geach
1848—Samuel Thornton
1849—William Lucy
1850—William Lucy
1851—Henry Smith
1852—Henry Hawkes
1853—James Baldwin
1854—John Palmer
1855—Thomas R. T. Hodgson
1856—John Ratcliff
1857—John Ratcliff
1858—Sir John Ratcliff, Knt.
1859—Thomas Lloyd
1860—Arthur Ryland
1861—Henry Manton
1862—Charles Sturge
1863—William Holliday
1864—Henry Wiggin
1865—Edwin Yates
1866—George Dixon
1867—Thomas Avery

CHARLES REECE PEMBERTON.

To the members of the old Birmingham Mechanics' Institute the name of Charles Reece Pemberton will act like a spell, and recall some of the pleasantest remembrances of their lives. The year 1839 is preserved in their memories as one of the golden years of their existence. They will recall how a noble looking but attenuated figure appeared before them in the Lecture Room of the Institute, with an eye still bright with its old fire, but a weakened voice, and tones recalling the once rich melody which it possessed, and told them of scenes and incidents in foreign climes. Generous hearts enabled the dying genius to visit Egypt in a vain search for health, and on his return he narrated,

as only he could narrate, the splendours of that old and worn-out civilization. To young students who hung on every word he spoke he pictured the wonders of Cairo, the mighty ruins of Thebes, the marvels of the Nile, the Pyramids and the Temples of Egypt. There was a solemnity in the scene rarely witnessed at lectures, for all who listened felt that they were listening to the dying words of one who, in Shylock and Macbeth, had, but so short a time before, thrilled them with the power of a great actor, illustrating the author whom he so conscientiously studied, so thoroughly appreciated, and so passionately loved. No one who ever heard Pemberton as lecturer or actor, can ever forget his fervid eloquence and extraordinary powers.

Pemberton was born at Pontypool, South Wales, on January 23, 1790, and in the register of his birth he is called Thomas Reece Pemberton. When he was quite a child the family removed to Birmingham, and in 1799 he was sent to the Protestant Dissenting Charity School, in Park Street, which at that time was under the able mastership of Mr. Daniel Wright, a teacher to whom many Birmingham men owe a debt of gratitude which they can never hope to repay. Only a month before his death Pemberton said to Mr. G. J. Holyoake, "I owe more to Daniel Wright than I do to any other man on earth, except my father. He taught me that those things were wrong I even then disliked, and everybody else would laugh at me for." He was removed from school in his fifteenth year, when he was apprenticed to his uncle, Mr. Pemberton, a brassfounder, at the corner of Livery Street, in Great Charles Street. His spirit was of too fiery a nature to be satisfied with the counting-house. In "Pel Verjuice," which may be accepted as his Autobiography, and which was contributed to the Monthly Repository in the years 1833-34, when their author was nearly fifty, he writes with the strong sense of the repugnance with which he looked upon his calling. This feeling was strengthened by a visit which he paid to the Theatre in 1806, when the town was being electrified by the performances of Young Roscius. The effect of this visit on the ardent and enthusiastic mind of the boy will be best understood by his own account of the incident. After describing the house as he surveyed it from his seat in the gallery, and having listened to the overture, he thus proceeds :—

"Then, oh then, on my enchanted eyes grew forth a magnificent palace, interminable in colonnades, and sacred with recesses, stretching far, far, far into distance: thence the mellow effulgence of an ethereal splendour subdued, drew the imagination on to an everlastingness of melodious and flowery elysium. Paint, canvass, and brushes, glory to ye! In quick retrogression the eye stepped on the gorgery of the marble columns, and over their sculptured and trophied decorations, then took their impatient rest on the space between the stream of light on the verdant floor, and the nearest range of pillars. From opposite portals two beings stepped lightly and gracefully forward until they met. Not yet; for the instant a sandalled foot from one was visible at the verge of the mystic recess, the mountain shook with the thunder which at once, in one passionate and headlong peal, rattled and echoed, and rolled from its summit, sides, and middle depths beneath me. It was the collision of four thousand palms, many of them as horny as a horse's hoof, the beating of so many feet with simultaneous, constantaneous strokes, and the volleying of two thousand voices in 'Bravo! bravo! bravo!' all in exact unison of burst. What a moment was that for the young and beautiful stripling, a juvenile deity descended, who stood, and bent a graceful acceptance of the homage. Again and again the thunder rose and rolled, and again the boy-god bowed. Yet there was another being, an elder, still a youth, standing near him, retired back a step or two; he stood erect and beautiful; he bowed not; he felt the homage was not to him; he was deaf and absent to it all; he was still Mr. King, in spite of his sandals, tunic, and peplum. The uproar melted into air; the last rumble of the thunder sank down, down, down from a murmur to a sigh; then to unheard, suppressed breath; deep, deep intense stillness: and I heard the voice of that rare creature, if creature he could be, musically syllable forth the words, 'Oh, Pylades, what's life without a friend?' In that vast assemblage of men, women, and youths, of different degrees, temperament, and character; the rough and the courtly, the rude and the refined, the semi-savage and the delicate, the educated and the illiterate, the turbulent and the meditative, the timid and the tipsy; not a whisper, not a breathed sound curled on the atmosphere to disturb the adoring silence; there was a tranquillity as perfect as in the stars—it was like the quiet of a moon-ray sleeping on, and borne about by, a vivified statue. Oh, how I was enthralled, enchanted, spell wrought, by what I saw and heard. With utter unconsciousness of myself I arose and bent forward, with outstretched arms, as if to fly whither I was irresistibly and dreamingly drawn, when a jerk at my coat tail, and a voice in anger's shrillness, crying, 'Cawn't ye sit deawn? y're rucking my geawnd,' drew me back. Oh, what a hurling down from the heaven of imagination was that! 'Gi that gewse some woots! turn um hout, throw um hover!' screamed and bellowed from every side, and a thousand heads, and as many pair of exasperated eyes were directed towards me. 'Oh, that this too, too solid flesh would melt, thaw, and resolve itself into a dew' (I had read Hamlet), was my prayer. I was steeped, saturated, parboiled in a cauldron of shame. I was for some moments in a state of utter annihilation; but the storm died away, peace returned, and with it my fixedness of eye and devouring of ear..... There were guards, and battle axes, and shields, and spears, and a throne.....I would have sacrificed my dinner every day for the next month even to have touched one of those blessed battle-axes, or to have clutched the shaft of one of those honoured spears! But the men that bore them! Oh! to their glorious state ambition could not dream of aspiring. Then the ladies, the angels, *les Deesses*, for such to me they were, to be gazed on only at a distance, unapproachable, and immaculate. How beautiful, how very beautiful they were, indeed they were, whether you call them women or goddesses! how much more than

lovely! Mortality's touch, or the voice or breath of earthliness would have blasphemed them. Yet the playbill informed me that Hermione, the Juno, the tornado queen, Hermione, was 'ycleped by mortals 'Mrs. Johnstone,' and the tearful, sad, and fond, and graciously tender Andromache, was grossly called 'Miss Norton,' and both were real women. But I would not, I could not believe it. Ah me! if I had carried a hundred hearts under my waistcoat they would all have jumped out and yielded themselves captives, willing, joyous captives. But bless you, reader, I have been in the same predicament a hundred times since; black, brown, fair, and coppery, all have held me in their thralls, and as I thought with each, past escape. It is all over now, and I am as free as a weathercock.....There was one sympathetic and simple creature sitting next to me (not the one whose 'geawnd I had rucked') motionless and mute as myself, but she found breath to whisper to me 'Are they alive?' alluding to the beings on the stage. 'Oh yes,' was all my reply, glad to give the information, and not a jot surprised at the question. But between the acts I was really agonised; what with the ugly change and the impatience for the elevation of the cruel act drop-scene, I could scarcely endure myself. There was whistling, and shouting, and hallooing to acquaintances, and cork-drawing, all in a moment from the descent of the act-drop; ay, ere it had closed in entirely, the villainy began..... What a bliss is ignorance. I am quite certain I could not now be bribed to sit through the play of 'Orestes; or the Distressed Mother,' as it was acted on that evening; everything was faultless, beautiful, divine then; because I had thought no more about the matter, I had examined no further into the qualities of acting than the rest of the public—those who are in the habit of deciding the fate of a histrionist. In short, I had not learned to find fault. The star, the wondrous magnet of the evening, the being who drew the *enthusiastic* multitude to gaze on him, was he who figured as Orestes; but it was Andromache that stood pre-eminent with me, sweet, tender, and soul-dissolving, in my sight. Folks said Hermoine was the finest; she may have been; but I have ever had an instinctive aversion to a virago, whether in brocade and lace and diamonds, silk or gingham, or in linsey-woolsey—but the most horrible of these horrors is a *genteel* 'virago.' Where was Astyanax, for whom Andromache feared and grieved? What a blessed child was that for which she moaned and wept! And I heard Pyrrhus tell her, ten times at least, with boisterous, bullying condescension, that he loved her; and I disliked Mr. Barrymore, and this, too, without loving Miss Norton.....I was throughout so earnest in my attention, so fixed in my gaze, and took impression of all I saw and heard so acutely and deeply, that I am sure I could have marshalled every step of foot, position of body, motion of arm. I could have coursed over every tone of voice which I heard that night for years afterwards. I felt everything, that is, I understood everything, except that which was most uproariously applauded, that which was clapped and 'bravoed' by the audience most vehemently—*the mad scene*. Young and ignorant as I was, I felt sorry it was done."

Poor Pemberton and his kind-hearted but outwardly cold uncle did not get on well together. They disagreed on almost everything, for they were utterly unlike each other. "At the age of seventeen," says Mr. Fowler, the editor of the Life and Literary Remains of Pemberton, "he ran away, with a companion, from his uncle's house and went to Liverpool. He was there kidnapped by a press-gang, and sent to

sea. His name was entered on the ship's books 'Charles Reece.' For several years he served in ships of war, was occasionally engaged in skirmishes and battles, and passed through many strange adventures consequent upon his seafaring life.

After this our knowledge of the life of Pemberton is very meagre. He went to the West Indies and, true to the dreams of his youth, became an actor and manager of theatres. He there married an actress of "great beauty and dramatic talent," said to be Fanny Pritchard. It was not a happy marriage; the young lady was not true to her vows, and the disappointed husband left wife and child, and the prospect of certain wealth, and became again a wanderer on the face of the earth.

The year of his return to England is not known; but in 1828 he was performing at the Hereford Theatre, where he had the good fortune to attract the attention of that good man, judicious critic, and able dramatist, Mr. Serjeant, afterwards Mr. Justice, Talfourd. He saw him play, during the assize week, Hotspur, Sir Peter Teazle, Shylock, and Virginius; of this round of characters Mr. Talfourd most admired Shylock, and from our own youthful impressions of this part we should say that, not even excepting Edmund Kean's, it was one of the finest impersonations ever seen on the stage. It was indeed the "Jew which Shakspere drew." Mr. Talfourd wrote a genial criticism of this performance for the "New Monthly Magazine," of which he was then editor. The result of this friendly act was that Mr. Pemberton appeared at Covent Garden Theatre, London, in March, 1829, in Virginius and Shylock. Critics were divided in opinion on the new tragedian, but all admitted he possessed some of the first requisites of a great actor. He next appeared in Birmingham with great success. Here, in reality his native town, he was enthusiastically received. In 1833, acting upon the advice of W. J. Fox, the editor of the "Monthly Repository," he commenced writing for that magazine that remarkable series of papers in which, under the title of "The Autobiography of Pel Verjuice," he tells almost all we know of his own life. For some years now Pemberton employed himself in lecturing on Social Reading, Poetry, and Shakspere. "It was," writes Mr. Fowler, "to members of Mechanics' Institutes, however, that he took the greatest pleasure in

speaking. He had at heart the improvement of the people; and, after the means of a bare subsistence, he cared little for pecuniary advantage, so that he could have the opportunity of doing good. The funds of many Mechanics' Institutions were materially augmented by the attraction of his lectures; and whenever the poverty of a Society stood in the way of his engagement, he was usually (perhaps invariably) willing to accommodate his terms to the circumstances of the case. At Birmingham he was very popular, and attracted as crowded audiences as ever assembled in that town" Of the truth of this all who knew him will cheerfully testify; and proof is given in the fact that in 1836 he performed Macbeth and Shylock in the Birmingham Theatre Royal for the benefit of the Mechanics' Institute.

His health was unfortunately giving way, and he was compelled to try a milder climate. He now visited Gibraltar, Malta, and other places in the Mediterranean, and returned to England in the summer of 1838. He lectured at Sheffield in August of that year, and a correspondent of the "Sheffield Independent" furnishes us with a graphic picture of the man and the lecture. The writer says :—

"When he stepped upon the platform there was a tremendous outburst of cheering, which speedily sunk into a more subdued manifestation of welcome. What a change had come upon him! He was but the shadow of himself; his manly bearing and his free action were gone, and in their place were come the stooping gait and the feeble walk. But oh! what a tale of suffering was told when he opened his mouth and spoke. His voice, which had been sweet as the lute and loud as the trumpet, had become weak, cracked, and discordant! And there was the dreadful cough that appeared to be everlastingly tearing at his heartstrings! Well, but he did speak; and, wonderful to behold, as he gradually advanced he got the mastery of his infirmities. The subject of the evening's lecture was Brutus, in Julius Cæsar. He brought out, one by one, the beauties of the character, and when he made it appear, as it really is, a glorious specimen of the best qualities of human nature, he held it up for admiration and instruction. Pemberton was no longer the man he had been some short time before,—he had left all his own weaknesses and entered fully into the loveliness and truth of Brutus. The illustrated passages were given with the delicacy and power of former times. It was life in death; and showed how the vigorous soul can impart energy to the wasted body."

His friends privately raised a sum of money which once more enabled the wanderer to travel. This time he visited Egypt, but his health was not improved. He now literally came home to die. After remaining a few days in London, he came to live at his brother's, Mr. W. O. Pemberton, then residing in Ludgate Hill. His niece, whom

every member of the Mechanics' Institute will remember with pride and pleasure, was his constant companion and nurse, and lovingly and faithfully she discharged her tender duties. Mr. G. J. Holyoake and a few other friends daily visited him, and invariably found him genial, cheerful, and happy. He died on the 3rd of March, 1840—"a bright sunny spring day—with a full knowledge that his time was come, for he occasionally said to his niece, 'this is death'; he died like a child going to sleep, serenely and happily. He was borne to his grave by a few members of the Birmingham Mechanics' Institution, and he lies buried in the Key Hill Cemetery."

A Committee was formed for the purpose of erecting a monument to his memory, of which Mr. G. J. Holyoake was appointed Secretary. No one was allowed to contribute to this fund "who had not either paid to hear him lecture, or bought his pamphlets or publications, or subscribed to his Illness Fund." The result of this action was, that the Committee were enabled to place over his remains the slab which now marks their last resting place, and on which is the following inscription from the pen of Mr. W. J. Fox :—

BENEATH THIS STONE
REST THE MORTAL REMAINS OF
CHARLES REECE PEMBERTON,
WHO DIED MARCH 3RD, 1840, AGED 50.

His gentle and fervid nature,
His acute susceptibility,
And his aspirations to the beautiful and true,
Were developed and exercised
Through a life of vicissitude,
And often of privation and disappointment,
As a public Lecturer
He has left a lasting memorial
In the minds of the many
Whom he guided to a perception
Of the genius of Shakspere
In its diversified and harmonising powers.
At oppression and hypocrisy
He spurned with a force proportioned
To that wherewith he clung

* The Life and Literary Remains of Charles Reece Pemberton. By John Fowler. p. xxii.

To justice and freedom, kindness and sincerity.
Ever prompt for generous toil,
He won for himself from the world
Only the poet's dowry,
"The hate of hate, the scorn of scorn,
The love of love!!"

At South Place, Finsbury, Mr. W. J. Fox delivered one of his eloquent addresses on the occasion of his friend's death. At this service were repeated the lines written by Ebenezer Elliott, and appropriately called

POOR CHARLES.

Shunn'd by the rich, the vain, the dull,
Truth's all-forgiving son,
The gentlest of the beautiful,
His painful course hath run;
Content to live; to die resigned;
In meekness proud of wishes kind,
And duties nobly done.

A god-like child hath left the earth;
In heaven a child is born:
Cold world, thou could'st not know his worth,
And well he earned thy scorn;
For he believed that all may be
What martyrs are, in spite of thee—
Nor wear thy crown of thorn.

Smiling he wreathed it round his brain
And dared what martyrs dare;
For God, who wastes nor joy nor pain,
Had "armed his soul to bear;"
But vain his hope to find below
That peace which heaven alone can know:
He died—to seek it there.

Pemberton also wrote three Plays,—"The Podesta," "The Banner," and "The Two Catherines,"—which, although not adapted for the stage, abound in splendid passages, which will delight the reader. We quote one specimen of his blank verse; it is from the third scene of the first act of "The Podesta:"

Ye smile me welcome, quiet walls—
Flowers, bow your beauteous heads in gratulation,
And, fragrant shrubs, waft ye your rich perfume
To bid me joy: and, laughing verdure, lift
Your chequering gems to welcome me again;—
Young guileless children sporting round my home!

Ye trees, upon whose clustering branches dance
Ten thousand harps to their own melody,
In whispering chorus join'd, is it for me
Ye hold this merriment and music soft?
Peace-beating to the heart-composing thoughts,
Ye send, ye graceful waving fields, to those
Who love to mark your undulating hosts
Harmonious moving. And, thou, old stream,
Flow on, flow on! and while thy margins drink
From thy free fountains, give them strength to bear
The peasant's toil, and yield that toil abundance.
Ah, safely bear each bark that tasks thy wave
For smooth support, and there a Naiad sits
Securely in her golden chariot gliding.
Ye solemn mountains, solemn, but not stern:
Not stern; sublimely calm are ye, and speak
Benevolence in venerable age.
Old white-hair'd men, gone to eternity,
Who still look back with love upon their brows
For all the generations past and all
The generations yet to rise,
So look you down on me!

Of his lyrical powers the following, from his "Songs of the Months," is a good example :—

APRIL—TEARS AND SMILES.

Her cheek is pale, her eyes are wet,
Her voice in murmurings
Grieves lowly to the morn, that yet
No sunshine brings.
Why linger ye, O, laughing hours?
Uncoil, ye buds; unfold, ye flowers!
Sad April sings.

The paleness fleets, the tears are dry,
Her voice with gladness rings;
The sunshine over earth and sky
Its brightness flings.
Come revel through my laughing hours,
Ye warbling birds, ye buds and flowers!
Glad April sings.

We have already quoted a specimen of his prose; but must add the following description of Moseley Common :—

"But the common!—I saw it three years ago, and, God be praised, it was not civilized. There is nothing in the whole range of English scenery, no beauty nor ornament, neither natural nor artificial glory, among all its delicious and enchanting variety, that glads my eyes and heart so fully and so instantaneously as a common of gorse bush and fern.

Sheep were on this common, descendants in the tenth generation, perhaps, of my old friends, bobbing their noses into, and nibbling the short soft grass—soft and slippery is that grass, on a sunny day, as my lady's velvet pelisse, or the tip of her ear. There, too, stood yet, the circle of aged firs, a vegetated druidical temple of firs. They were none of your prim, straight, smirking looking things, that you see 'stuck in a modern shrubbery,' like a string of boarding-school misses, ranged at question and answer; but stout, hearty, jolly old fellows, sturdy in the chest and waist, and such muscular and sinewy arms thrown out, as if they would knock the wind down. You may see something like them at Guy's Cliff, in the avenue, which they form; but, oh, they are babies compared with those on my common. Well, so they stood, solemnly waving their dark garments in the breeze, or motionless in their silent and deep worship of nature. Magnificence dreaming. Nothing there was touched by the hand of civilization, thank God. Yes, one change had been made, and I felt that the milk of human kindness was not all soured within me. This was a fanciful and beautiful improvement. An extensive old gravel-pit had been spread with productive earth and mould, without diminishing its depth perceptibly, or changing its outlines in the least—all the abruptness, hillocks, undulations, hollows, and projections were carefully preserved, then turfed and planted with shrubs, roots, and moss, which, when I saw them, were flourishing with seventeen years of glory, making one of the most perfect specimens of romantic solitude I ever enjoyed. Who did it? Take nine-tenths of the saints out of the calendar to make room for him."

Such was Charles Reece Pemberton, his life, and works. His is a name which Birmingham, at least, ought not willingly to let die. In the words of his favourite author—

> "His life was gentle; and the elements
> So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up
> And say to all the world, *This was a Man!*"

APPENDIX.

THE BIRMINGHAM LIBRARY.

Since the publication of the first volume I have received from Mr. John F. Lee some additional information on the early history of the Library.

Mr. Lee says: "My father, Mr. John Lee, was one of the first subscribers, and had the care and management of the books at the house of my grandfather, in Snowhill, where the books were exchanged every morning between the hours of 9 and 10. As the books increased in number a Bookcase was made, fitted up with sliding shelves, on which they were kept until 1782, when they were removed to a room in the Swan Yard. This bookcase is now in my possession.

"I enclose a list of the subscribers in 1789, which, I suppose, is made out in the order they became members, and you will see that many of these are Dissenters. Hutton says the Society 'received from the benevolent hand of Dr. Priestley, in 1782, that stability and method without which no institution can prosper;' but you see, by the list of the Committee in 1789, that the Society did not long enjoy the benefit of his counsels and advice, as his name does not appear in the Committee, nor does that of any Dissenter, except Mr. Dearman. As the Dissenters were thus excluded, my father refused to act as Treasurer, which he had done from the commencement."

In 1789 there were 349 subscribers, and the following is the list of the Committee for that year :—

Rev. Charles Curtis, President.
Mr. John Lee, Treasurer.
William Horne, Librarian.

Francis Parrott, M.D.	Captain Cooke
Mr. John Freer, jun.	Mr. Joseph Gibbs.
Rev. J. Clutton.	Mr. J. P. Dearman.
Rev. C. Curtis.	William Gilby, M.D.
Mr. Joseph Rabone.	Mr. John Blount.
Mr. Geo. Holl Barker.	Mr. Sampson Lloyd.
Mr. Thos. Cooper.	Mr. Charles Stewart.
Mr. Geo. Kennedy.	Mr. James Woolley.
Rev. Joseph Berington.	Mr. Samuel Garbett.
Rev. Thos. Price.	Mr. John Lee, jun.

LEWIS PAUL AND JOHN WYATT.

COTTON SPINNING IN BIRMINGHAM.

Lewis Paul was the son of a French refugee who carried on business as a druggist, in St. Paul's Churchyard. By this calling he acquired considerable property, and at his death he left his son under the guardianship of Lord Shaftesbury and his brother, the Honourable M. A. Cooper. We have no information as to his bringing up, but gather from his papers that Lewis led a gay life as a young man, fell into bad company, and to pay his debts, mortgaged the valuable property in the parish of St. Bride's, which his father had left him. He was evidently on the high road to ruin, unless he reformed his habits, and that speedily. He had the courage to break off his connection with his former associates, though by that time his purse was nearly empty; and he proceeded to apply himself to business connected with invention.

In a letter addressed by him to the Earl of Shaftesbury, son of his guardian, many years later, Paul said: "As it too often happens with young sparks, I made but an ill use of my position and patronage. However, before the calamities I had laid the foundation of had reached me, I had exerted myself to the repair of my affairs with such ardour and success, that, notwithstanding the various impediments necessarily in the way of a person who had spent his time in every way so remote from the arts of trade, I nevertheless completed a machine of great value in the most extensive manufacture in the kingdom." The machine to which he thus referred was that for spinning by rollers, on the principle subsequently adopted and completed by Sir Richard Arkwright.

It appears that the first invention of Paul was a machine for the pinking of crapes, tammies, &c., which brought him considerable profit. He employed a number of women to work the machine, amongst whom we find Mrs. Demoulins, a protegée of Dr. Johnson, frequently referred to in Boswell's *Life*. It is probable that Paul's connection with the French manufacturers of Spitalfields served to direct his attention to the invention of new methods of facilitating production, with the object of turning them to account in the raising of his depressed fortunes.

Shortly after, we find him in communication with John Wyatt, of Weeford, near Lichfield, afterwards of Birmingham, well known in his district as a highly ingenious and expert workman. It appears from the papers of Wyatt, which we have carefully examined, that he had invented a file-cutting machine, which he agreed to dispose of, "when perfected," to one Richard Heeley, of Birmingham, a gunmaker, for certain considerations. But Heeley having become involved in difficulties the agreement came to an end, and Wyatt looked out for another customer for his invention. Such he found in Lewis Paul; and in September, 1732, an agreement was entered into between them, in which Paul is described as "of the parish of St. Andrew's, Holborn, gentleman," and Wyatt as "of the parish of Weeford, county of Stafford, carpenter." By this agreement Paul bound himself to the same terms as Heeley had done, though the machine was declared to be "not yet perfected and completed." Paul, however, being unable to pay the stipulated instalments, reconveyed the invention to Wyatt in the following year, by a deed in which it is described as "a certain tool or instrument intended to be used in and for the cutting of files."

We next find Paul residing at Birmingham, and Wyatt employed under his directions in bringing out a new invention for spinning fibrous materials by machinery. It is said

that Wyatt had before that time made a model of such a machine while residing at Sutton Coldfield, by means of which he was enabled to spin thread successfully; and probably Paul was only acting on the suggestion first thrown out by Wyatt, in proceeding to join him for the purpose of bringing the machine to perfection. Both were equally short of money, but Paul had greater facilities for raising means amongst his London friends, at the same time that he carried on his business of pinking crape and tammies. Both were men of hot temper, and being hampered for want of money and struggling with difficulties, they often quarrelled violently, and usually ended by agreeing and working together again. The invention seems to have occupied the minds of both for more than four years, during which time they occasionally proceeded to London, Paul to try and raise money amongst his friends, and Wyatt to visit the manufacturers' shops in Spitalfields and obtain practical hints from the manufacturers for the purposes of the machine.

Paul returned to Birmingham, leaving Wyatt in London to proceed with the "work;" the former sending remittances in payment of Wyatt's agreed salary, according as the money could be raised. In one of Paul's letters, enclosing a remittance for salary and "work done," he says—"As to particulars, I dare say when you see Perriere's work you'll remember the whole design I have laid down." In a letter written two days later, Paul says—"When I wrote to you last, being in a good deal of haste, I apprehend that I omitted some directions necessary. A principal was, that you should lake a lodging either where you are not known, or where you can have the highest confidence to remove the tool to, and and to prepare that work, for I would not have it seen by anybody besides yourself for any reasons." Towards the end of the year 1737, Paul was still struggling with difficulties as to money, putting off Wyatt with excuses, assuring him that if it were possible to borrow he should be supplied forthwith, and that he himself was extremely anxious to be in town, but could not stir for want of the "*primun mobile*." In his next letter, all that he could send Wyatt was two guineas, which he had raised "with much difficulty;" but he hoped to have more soon. when he would immediately set out for London.

In the beginning of 1738, Paul wrote to Wyatt in great joy, having been at length enabled to obtain a sum of money from Mr. Warren, a Birmingham bookseller; but it having been advanced on the express condition that it was to be invested in Paul's crape business, over which Mr. Warren was to have control. excepting the sum of £70, which Paul was to be at liberty to employ for his own purposes. On the strength of this advance he proceeded to ask Wyatt if he would engage to work for him at a salary for six months, with a view to the perfecting of the machine. Wyatt answered that he could give four days a week, at 5s. a day, to the forwarding of Paul's work, taking a payment of 17s. weekly on account, and leaving the rest to accumulate until Paul was able to pay him. This was a most generous offer on the part of Wyatt, who was labouring with self-denying zeal to perfect the invention, occasionally pawning his clothes to maintain himself and wife until remittances arrived from Birmingham, the suit which he wore being so ragged that he declared he was ashamed to be seen abroad in it.

In the meantime Paul was impatient for the completion of the model, which was delayed in consequence of the secrecy which was observed with respect to it. the whole of the work having to be done by Wyatt himself. At length the model was ready, and Paul proceeded to London to take out a patent for the invention of spinning wool and cotton by means of rollers. His petition was enrolled in January, 1738. and the patent was issued in the month of July following. The process detailed in the specification is clearly akin to that

afterwards revived by Arkwright, and by him turned to such profitable account. The sliver "Is put between a pair of rollers," . . . and "being turned round by their motion, draws in the raw mass of wool or cotton to be spun, in proportion to the velocity of such rollers;" and "a succession of other rollers moving proportionately faster than the rest, draw the rope, thread, or sliver into any degree of fineness that may be required;" in addition to which, "the bobbyn, spole, or quill, upon which the thread is spun, is so contrived as to draw faster than the first rollers give, and in such proportion as the sliver is proposed to be diminished." The whole principal of spinning by rollers is clearly embodied in this description; and that it was the invention of Lewis Paul is clear from a memorandum of the handwriting of John Wyatt, found amongst his papers, to the following effect:—

"*Thoughts originally Mr. Paul's.*—1. The joining of the rolls. 2. Their passing through cylinders. 3. The calculation of the wheels, by which means the bobbin draws faster than those cylinders; this, I presume, was picked up somewhere before I knew him."

The rest of the details of the invention were claimed by Wyatt—"the horizontal and tracer, the conic whorves," the proportional size of the spindle and bobbin, and sundry other mechanical details of the machine.

But though Paul secured a patent for his invention, and sold sundry licenses to manufacturers to spin wool and cotton after his process, it does not appear that it proved very successful. James Johnson, a manufacturer in Spitalfields, bought a license to use 150 spindles. Warren, the Birmingham bookseller, took a license for 50 spindles, in consideration of the money owing to him by Paul; being induced to do so by the favourable report of Dr. James, of fever-powder celebrity. Edward Cave also, the printer of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, was tempted to embark in the speculation. He bought from Paul a license for 250 spindles, and in 1740 he started a spinning-mill on Turnhill Brook, a little to the north of Fleet Bridge, at the back of Field Lane, Holborn. John Wyatt was so sanguine as to the success of the invention, that he too, like Warren, agreed to take a grant of 300 spindles in discharge of the debt of £820, which Paul by this time owed to him.

But all the attempts made to spin by Paul's machine proved comparatively unsuccessful as regarded profitable results. Johnson's mill in Spitalfields was accidentally burnt down, but he did not care to repeat the experiment. Cave could not work his spindles to a profit though the mill was superintended by Paul himself, and it was shortly given up. Wyatt was not more fortunate. He first started fifty spindles in a large warehouse near the Well in the Upper Priory, Birmingham. The movement was given to the machinery by two or more asses working round an axis, and required some ten girls to attend to the work. After a short trial, Wyatt found himself in difficulties and in debt, and a few months later we find him a prisoner in the Fleet. His assignees sold the spindles to a Mr. Samuel Touchet (a French refugee), of Northampton, whither they were removed from Birmingham; and Wyatt, having taken the benefit of the Insolvent Debtors' Act, and obtained his discharge, went down to Northampton to superintend in person the erection and working of the spinning factory.

It is not necessary to describe the Northampton adventure. Suffice it to say, that after working for more than ten years, the factory was given up as a failure, Paul alleging that the chief cause lay in the mismanagement of the owners. Touchet was glad to get out of the concern at a loss; on which Edward Cave, doubtless persuaded by Paul, entered upon a lease of the factory; but at his death, shortly after, his brother Joseph, to whom the property devolved, became so disheartened, that he too resolved to abandon the enterprise.

Paul, still firmly believing in the soundness of his project, next took a lease of the Northampton mill for twenty-one years; but, being unable to pay the rent, Cave put in a distress for the moneys due to him. On this and other occasions, we find Dr. Johnson negotiating between Paul and the Caves, and endeavouring to bring them to terms. The machinery of the mill at Northamptom was eventually sold for the price of the materials; and the experiment, promising though it seemed, and embodying, as it did, the principle of an invention which has since enriched thousands, ended, for the time, in disaster to all concerned.

Paul continued to add to his inventions. He invented a carding-machine in 1748, which he patented; and, ten years later, he took out a second patent for a spinning-machine, substantially the same as the first, embodying many improvements in detail, though not in principle. He did not, however, long survive the grant of this patent, but died shortly after, in April 1759, at Brook Green, Kensington.

The invention at which Paul had laboured with such unfortunate results, was at length perfected and introduced into successful practice by Arkwright in 1768, his patent for spinning by rollers having been taken out in the following year. In course of time the invention was generally adopted, and the cotton manufacture became one of the great staple trades of the North of England. The invention of the steam-engine by Watt gave another great impulse to this branch of industry; and the further invention of the powder-loom gave almost the death-blow to handloom-weaving.*

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

The Birmingham people were always much given to Friendly Societies. From the "Incorporating deed" of one of these societies, which is engrossed on parchment in a clear bold legal hand, and duly stamped and sealed, I make the following analysis of its rules and orders :—

Rules and Orders to be observed by the Members of a Friendly Society who have agreed to meet at the House of Mr. Thomas Taylor, known by the Sign of The Old Crown, Philip Street, in the Town of Birmingham, began 25th December, 1815. The Preamble states "Whereas it hath been an ancient and laudable Custom within this Kingdom for divers Artists to meet together and form themselves into Friendly Societies to promote true friendship and Christian Charity,—It is Agreed by us who have entered our Names into the Society Book to subscribe to the following Articles." There are thirty-two articles. Each member was to be elected by a majority, and had to subscribe to the articles. The candidates had to attend one night before election to obtain the approbation of the members. The meetings were fortnightly, on a Monday, "between the hours of nine and seven." If any controversy arose it was to be settled by a majority of the Society. The Club room was to be kept in decent order; an hour-glass was to be provided, and during the winter half-year a fire. An almanack was always to be kept in the room, or the landlord forfeited sixpence for the neglect. The subscription was one shilling per fortnight, and

* The Huguenots, their Settlements, Churches, and Industries in England and Ireland. By Samuel Smiles.

three-pence extra was paid "to be drank by the members present the same night." Two stewards were elected every three months, who had to attend by eight o'clock each club night, or else forfeit sixpence, unless prevented "by sickness, lameness, or on a journey." The stewards had to look over the book, see that the money was right, and all forfeits regularly set down, or themselves forfeit a shilling for such neglect. In time of sickness the member received eight shillings per week. To the article relating to the relief of the sick is added this N.B.: "No gilder, coachman or guard, or watchman shall be admitted." The regulations as to the receipt of the relief are very strict, and provide against almost every possible deception; and the causes of exclusion are numerous. The "salary" of the surgeon was to be paid by the members, and not out of the subscription money. To pay the surgeon the magnificent sum of a halfpenny a week, or a penny each club night, was paid by each member. The payment on the death of a member was £5; and on that of a member's wife £3. Rules 10, 11, 12, and 13, are worth quoting—

"That no member shall pick a quarrel with, or strike, or abuse any other member belonging to this Society, neither in the Club Room nor anywhere else, at any time; if he does he shall forfeit five shillings on full proof thereof; and if any member of this Society sees another fighting in any place at any time, he shall insist on his giving over, or on proof thereof he shall forfeit one shilling, and if he that is fighting will not give over on the other's demand he shall forfeit one shilling and sixpence; and if anything of this happens, if neither of the members make it known, and there is full proof of one seeing another fighting, they shall forfeit two shillings each. (If the member belonging to this Society was first assaulted it shall not signifiy anything). Also if any member offer to lay wagers, or gamble, or swear, during Club Hours, he shall forfeit two-pence.

"That the Stewards for the time being shall, if any dispute arise during Club Hours, have power to command silence throughout the whole room, and if the members then present do not obey the third notice, they shall forfeit two-pence each.

"That if any member comes *disguised* in Liquor, so as to make any disturbance in the Club Room, he shall forfeit four-pence.

"That if any member publicly or privately promotes the breaking up of this Society, he shall be excluded; and the Society shall not be disolved so long as any three members continue, nor be removed from the above house where it is kept, without the consent of a majority of the members; that no person be admitted above forty years of age."

WILLIAM MURDOCK.

This able mechanic and inventor of gas died on the 15th of November, 1839, in his 85th year. On the 25th of the same month the following brief, but interesting "narrative of his life," from the pen of a correspondent, was published in the *Gazette*:—

"So remarkable a man, whose talents and inventions have contributed to the advantage of Society, and whose ingenuity was so well known, should not be allowed to go out of the world without some special notice. He was born in 1754, at Bellow Mill, near Old Cumnock, in Ayrshire, where his father, an ingenious man, carried on the business of millwright and miller. From early youth he evinced strong inclination for all sorts of mechanical contrivances, and as he grew up became not only an expert workman in wood

and metals, but acquired a knowledge of such works of engineering as he had an opportunity of observing, such as water-mills and their various applications, steam engines, mining operations, bridge building, &c. To a strong and muscular frame he united great activity and dexterity, and much energy and capacity of exertion.

"In 1777, he came to England and offered his services to Messrs. Boulton and Watt, who had then just commenced making their steam engines at Soho. They soon discovered and appreciated his talents, as well as the integrity of his character. After a short residence at Soho, they appointed him to superintend the erection and to undertake the general charge of their engines in Cornwall, where he remained, giving great satisfaction to the mining interest, until the year 1798. He then returned to take up his permanent residence near Soho, and superintended the erection of the machinery at Soho Foundry, and occasionally the erection of steam engines at a distance.

"Now that locomotive steam engines applied to carriages have become so extensively used, it is proper to record that the first so applied was made by Mr. Murdock, upon the principle described in the 4th Article of Mr. Watt's specification of 1769, (since adopted in all engines for that purpose), and this was seen, in 1784, by persons still living, driving a waggon round a room at his house at Redruth, where he then resided. Mr. Watt, in his notes on Dr. Robinson's Treatise on the Steam Engine, bears testimony to some valuable improvements by Mr. Murdock, and others are recorded in a patent he took out in 1799.

"Mr. Murdock is still better known to the public, and most deservedly so, by his invention of applying the light of gas from coal and other inflammable substances to economical purposes. After various experiments, commencing as early as the year 1792, by which he proved the economy and convenience of light so obtained, compared with that from oils or animal substances, he perfected his apparatus and made a public exhibition of it by lighting up the front of Mr. Boulton's manufactory, at Soho, on the occasion of the peace of Amiens, in 1802. He subsequently lighted up some cotton mills, at Manchester, beginning with that of Messrs. Philips and Lee, and published a paper describing the advantages in the Philosophical Transactions for 1808, for which the Royal Society presented him with their large Rumford Gold Medal. Our limits do not allow us to enter upon various improvements in the processes of other arts to which his ingenious mind was directed.

"In his latter years his faculties, both corporal and mental, experienced a gradual decay, and he lived in almost absolute retirement.

"His remains were accompanied by several old and attached friends, and by the workmen of the engine establishments of Soho and Soho Foundry, to their last abode in Handsworth Church, and are there deposited near those of Mr. Boulton and Mr. Watt. A bust by Chantrey will serve to perpetuate the remembrance of his manly and intelligent features."

THE GREAT "TYTH" OF ST. MARTIN'S.

The following appeared in Aris's Gazette, in June, 1869:—

TO THE EDITOR OF ARIS'S GAZETTE.

SIR,—I have recently had placed in my hands a small quarto MS. book which cannot fail to possess some interest to all Birmingham folk who care for the past history of the town. The little volume is a care-

fully-kept account of the various sums paid by the owners and tenants of land for tythe in the parish of St. Martin's, during the years 1756 and 1771, inclusive. The entries are rich in well known Birmingham names, and the meadow lands, fields, crofts, and gardens for which the tythe was paid, afford some curious and pleasant information as to the country aspect of the old town. It also gives us the names of places not mentioned in Westley's plan of 1731; and as we peruse its pages we can picture to ourselves the farm and garden-like appearance of the place. We can also trace the origin of the names of many of our streets, which have frequently puzzled the Birmingham antiquarian, and which remain unsolved to this day. We see that in places which are now crowded with houses, shops, and manufactories, there was at the period included in these payments a large number of crofts, meadows, fields, leasows, orchards, and gardens: that in the heart of the town wheat and rye, and oats and flax were grown in tolerably large quantities not a century since. As we turn over its well-kept pages, we appear to be thrown into an agricultural district, far away from the sound of hammers and forges, and the deafening noises arising from the infinite variety of industries which are so intimately associated with the Birmingham of to-day. Still in 1756, the first year of the entries in this book, the town was famous for manufactures. In 1538, Leland, in the "pretty street as ever he entered into Birmingham towne," found numbers of smithes and cutlers;" and in the town itself many smiths "that use to make knives and all mannour of cuttinge tooles, and many lorimers that make bittes, and a great many naylors." And between 1576 and 1586 the author of the "Britannia," William Camden, says it was "swarming with inhabitants, and echoing with the noise of anvils (for here are great numbers of smiths)." In 1777, only six years after these entries cease, Burke had declared in the House of Commons that he looked upon Birmingham to be the great toy shop of Europe;" and yet in 1771 we find the aspect of the place to be that of a country town not only surrounded by fields, but with fields, orchards, and gardens, in what are now the most busy and most densely crowded parts of the borough.

Hutton gives an extract from a Terrier written by the Rector, William Daggett, in 1680. The one from which I make my extracts

was written by the Rev. Richard Dovey, who held the Rectorship for the period of forty years, from 1732 to 1772, and it was made after he had "enjoyed the same for twenty-four years." The following is my first extract :—

An Account of Great Tyth belonging to the Rectory of St. Martin, in Birmingham, as let by the present Rector, R. Dovey, in the year 1756, &c., after having enjoyed the same Twenty Four Years.

Tyth in kind of All manner of Grain Tillage and Garden Stuff in all the Parish is due to the Rector. There is no modus or Claim or Pretence to any Modus or Exemption for Such Tyths in any Part of the Parish.

I let every Tiller his own Tyth by the Day's Work at the following prices (N.B. Four Statute Acres are reckoned Five Days' Work) viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
One Day's Work of *good* Wheat at	0	6	0
" " of *good* Marsling Fat	0	5	6
" " of *good* " Lean	0	5	0
" " of *good* Rye	0	4	0
" " of *good* Barley	0	3	6
" " of *good* Oats	0	3	0
" " of *good* Pease	0	3	0
" " of Potatoes and all kind of Garden Stuff...	0	3	0

If The Crop be called *Midling* then I have always abated Sixpence in Every Day's Work of each sort of Grain : If the Crop be Poor I have always allowed more, as appeared reasonable according to the Case.

Mem'dum.—The Tyth of Flax and Hemp, if pulled, is fixed at Five Shillings for a Statute Acre by Act 11 & 12, W. 3 Cap. 16.

This Method has been used by Some of my Predecessors* in managing their Tyth ; wch. I approved and continued.

RICHD. DOVEY.

Of the names of Mr. Dovey's three predecessors here given, Hutton only gives two—William Daggett and Mr. Green. The successor to Mr. Green, as given by our historian, is Mr. Thomas Tysor ; is this an error for Christopher Tyrer ?

In the next extract, which is a copy of the Terrier, the first paragraph gives a description of the Parsonage which was at the Smallbrook Street end of Edgbaston Street, and is well shown in Westley's Plan of 1731, where it appears surrounded by a small moat, which is connected with the moat in Smithfield by a narrow stream of water. The following is Mr. Dovey's Terrier :—

* Mr. William Daggett, Mr. Green, Mr. Christopher Tyrer.

Copy of The Terrier delivered into the Register's Office at Lichfield by Mr. Daggett before the Parish was divided.

A Terrier of the Rectory of Birmingham in the County of Warwick.

Imprimis.—One House wherein the present Rector Mr. William Daggett lives consisting of Four Bayes of Building whereunto adjoyn Three Barns, Two of which contain Two Bayes a piece Each and the other contains Four Bayes, One Stable, One Hovel, One Garden, and a Fold Yard containing half an Acre of Ground and One Small Croft containing three Quarters of an Acre of Land.

2ndly.—Two other Houses, in the Town of Birmingham the one containing Three Bayes of Building and the other Two Bayes with the Outbuildings being situate between the Houses of John Bayliss and John Groves.

3rdly.—Three Pieces of Ground commonly called by the Name of Glebe Land containing Sixteen Acres or thereabouts, bounded on three Sides by the Land belonging to the Free Grammar School of Birmingham and on the other by the lane called Sheepecoate Lane.

Item.—Three other closes called the Five Ways closeth containing aboute Twenty Acres or thereabouts, bounded on two sides by two Lanes One leading from the Five Ways to the New Street in Birmingham and the Other Lane leading from the Five Ways to Edgbaston Street in Birmingham and on the other sides by the Lands of Mr. Samuel Smallbrooke and Josiah Porter.

Item.—One Other Close containing about two Acres, bounded on three sides by the Grounds of Mr. Richard Careless and on the Fourth by a Lane called Lady Wood Lane.

Item.—One other Close containing about two Acres and a half, called by the Name of the Parson's Meadow, bounded by the Lands of Thomas Smith on One Side and the Lands of Mr. John Gage on the other part and the Land of the Lady Marrow on the other part.

Item.—One Croft commonly called Horspool Croft containing about half an Acre bounded by a Lane called Bell's Barn Lane on one side and by the Land of Robert Phillips, Esq. on one part and by the Land of Mr. Samuel Smallbrooke on the other part.

4thly.—Tythes in kind of all manner of Grain throughout the whol parish and instead of Tyth Hay Woole Lamb &c. a Due of Twelve pence in the pound called Herbage in all the Parish except the Foreign wherein the Custom is Four pence an acre for Meadowing, Two pence for an Acre for Leas Three pence for each Lamb, Three halfpence for a Cow and Calf and Except some part of the Estate of William Colmore Esq. (vizt.) The Hall Ring The Tentor Butts and Bell's Barn Ring for the Herbages of which he pays Thirteen Shillings and Four Pence ℔ Annum And also except some part of the Estate of Mr. Samuel Smallbrooke (the particulars of which I cannot inform myself) for the which he pays me Eight Shillings ℔ Ann: And Except the Estate of Thomas Weyman called Whitehall Farm for the Herbage of which he pays Two Shillings and Eight pence ℔ Ann. Note that if all these Estates before particularly mentioned should happen to be all in Tillage or what part soever of them happens so to be notwithstanding they pay the Customary Modus for Herbage and Tyth of Corn in kind.

5thly.—Surplice Fees, That is to say, Twelve pence for Every One that is buryed in the Church, Six pence for Every One that is buryed in the Church Yard. Four pence for

Churching every Woman, Five Shillings for Every One that is married by Lycence and Two Shillings and Sixpence that is married without a Lycence, Tyth Pigs and Geese thorowout the whole Parish at or above the number Seven. Easter Dues Four pence for a Man and Wife and Four pence for each Single Person above the Age of Sixteen.

6thly.—The Clerks Wages paid by the Churchwardens Twenty Shillings ℔ Ann. for those that are married by Lycence Two Shillings and Sixpence and for those that are married without Lycence Twelve pence, burying in the Church yard Sixpence, burying in the Church Twelve pence, for Churching of Women Four pence, and Two pence for each Housekeeper at Easter.

Wm. Daggett, Rector.
Jonathan Seely, } Church Wardens.
Benjamin Cash, }
William Kettle, Constables.
Thomas Gisburne.
Abraham Spooner.
Tho. Rowney.
Edwd. Hare.

N.B.—There are only Terriors elder than This Both given in by Mr. Daggett's immediate Predecessor Mr. Henry Groves dated 1682 and 1699, containing only an Account of the Glebe Lands and Buildings taking no Notice of the Tyth or any other payments of Customs. Richd. Dovey.

In my next letter I give some of the names of the places mentioned in this curious volume; and attempt to identify them with the present streets which, under such altered circumstances, still preserve them, and so connect the present with the past.

Yours truly,

J. A. Langford.

THE GREAT "TYTH" OF ST. MARTIN'S.

To the Editor of Aris's Gazette.

Sir,—The Terrier made by the Rev. Richard Dovey begins in the year 1756, but, although it was admirably kept, it was not until the year 1763 that, with a few exceptions, the names of the farms and land held by the various tenants were entered in a book. There are, however, before that date, a few entries of some interest. From a memorandum inserted in the year 1757, it was evident that Mr. Dovey looked well after his tithe. In that year there is this note :—"Enquire of Mr. Bailey about Garden in Land belonging to Chas. Jennens, Esq." Mr. Thomas Hidson pays 7s. 6d. for a garden part of Mr. Inge's, at the Salutation. The inn with this name was in Snow Hill. There are also several entries referring to Dr. Hinckley's land. In this name we

have most probably the origin of the Hinckleys. In November, 1783, there appeared an advertisement in *Aris's Gazette*, in which it is announced that at Christmas next, or sooner if required, there is to be let "a substantial messuage or dwelling house, situate in the New Hinckleys, consisting of three rooms on a floor, with three good cellars, a stable for *two horses, a large garden and summer-house, all entire*, late in the occupation of Mr. John Taylor, deceased. The house will be very convenient for a manufacturer, as there is some vacant land adjoining the said garden, upon which the proprietor has no objection to build any quantity of shopping that may be required for a responsible tenant." And in December of the same year other premises are advertised to be let "in that part of the New Hinckleys leading up to Hinckley Hall." Doubtless the Hinckleys were named after this hall, and it is very likely that the hall belonged to Dr. Hinckley, or some member of his family, from whom it received its name. The "Oozels" is also mentioned as farm land growing oats and barley; and it has been suggested that this, perhaps, was a farm at the Lozells, and that the latter name has been derived from the former. I do not think so. For instance, the Lozells was called "Lowcells" in 1793, in which year "that valuable and improved farm" known by that name was advertised for sale. It is almost certain that the present Oozel Street is on the farm thus named in Mr. Dovey's Terrier, as it is entered as Mr. Colmore's Land, and we know that this landowner possessed a considerable quantity of land in this part of the town. We also frequently meet with the names of "Meg's Leasow," "Lady Well Leasow," "Great Leasow," "Low Leasow," and "Holy Close." There are gardens by "New Chapel next Canons' Fields," the origin of the present Cannon Street; and many other names which now defy identification.

In 1758, we find that the great printer, John Baskerville, paid 1s. tithe for a "Bit of Oats;" and again, in 1763, he is charged 4s. 6d. for $1\frac{1}{2}$ acre of oats, which, for some reason or other, was not entered as paid. Baskerville lived until 1775, and perhaps from his hatred of "superstition" as recorded in his will he may have objected to pay the second tithe. However this may be, the payment of this amount is not entered in the book, although all such payments are entered with the

most scrupulous care. It may be that in consequence of this he gave up the land, for in the next year (1764) it is entered as "part of Mr. Perrots's, late held by Mr. Baskerwille." There are numerous entries of land in Hoar Stone Lane, which is most likely the origin of the present Warstone Lane. The "New Hall Ring" is of frequent occurrence, and is entered as Mr. Colmore's Land, and therefore would be part of the New Hall estate, now occupied by Newhall Street, and the adjacent streets. "Hockley Farm" often appears, and must have been a very large one, for in one page we have, under several heads, over £4 paid for tithe on this farm. The "Butts" are the present Stafford Street; as on Westley's plan, in 1731, it is named the Butts, or Stafford Street. The former name was derived from the butts which were placed there. There is also Hunkitt's Lane, from Dr. Hunkitt. Floodgate Meadow will be remembered by many persons living; as will also the notorious Shoulder of Mutton Field which was in Lawley Street, and before its absorption by the railway was the constant scene of pugilistic encounters and dog-fights. Bell's Barn Ring is frequently mentioned. This is doubtless the present Bellbarn Road, as one entry fixes its locality. We have "at Holloway Head, Bell's Barn Ring." Speaking Stile Lane has caused some trouble to local etymologists, but the Terrier furnishes us with its origin. It is entered there under the name of "Echo Stile," and its locality is given as Bell Barn Ring, Holloway Head. There can therefore be no doubt as to the reason why it was so called. From Echo Stile to Speaking Stile the transition is easy. Fields of wheat, barley, and oats, and gardens are entered in Sheepcoate Lane, now Sheepcote Street, and innocent of such products. The same cereals were grown at the Sand Pits; and wheat is charged for in Mr. Spooner's Roundabout—a place I am unable to identify. Gardens in the Brickkiln Piece carry us to the time when the present Horse Fair—then called Brickkiln Lane—was in a pretty bit of country. We have similar entries in Hurst Hill, now Hurst Street; and barley was then grown at Holloway's Great Hill, where was also situated the Windmill Piece. A large number of gardens are found in Park Street, and farms in Walmer Lane; while the last entry in the book in 1771 is 1s.6d. tithe for half-an-acre of potatoes, "Mrs. Weaman's Land, near Catherine Street."

The entries under the name of Thomas Smallwood are very full, and give us the names of the various parts of his farm of forty-eight acres, of which the tyth charge was £9 11s. 3d. They are Broomy Leasow, Oak Leasow, Oat Leasow, Stoney Field, Upper Sherland, Lower Sherland, Crabtree Leasow, Gosty Field, Feggy Leasow, Harper's Leasow, and Well Croft. And this brings us to the much-vexed question of the etymology of Gosta Green. Hutton in one of his usually infelicitous guesses suggests in parenthesis Goose-stead Green. This must be far away from the origin of the word, for we have the name in this Terrier, occurring in other parts of the town. There are Gosty Green, Upper Gosty Green, Gosty Piece, and Gosty Field. Does not this repetition of the word show that it comes from gorse, which by country people, and not only by country people, is still called goss? I have frequently heard pieces of land on which gorse and ling grow called gosty-land, and is not this the meaning of the word? and is not Gosta Green, at one time called Gosty-green, derived from the fact that at the time when all this part of Birmingham was country, the present green was a piece of Gosty-land? Surely this is a more natural etymology than either goose-stead, or gusty, which has also been suggested, because the land was high and exposed to gusts of wind. Mr. Fisher's land, Gosta Green, gives us the source of the present Fisher Street, as does Mr. Tanter's land that of Tanter Street.

Rotten Park is of frequent occurrence in the Terrier. This park is a very ancient place in Birmingham. In his "Men and Names of Old Birmingham," the late—alas! that I should have to write the late—Mr. Toulmin Smith quotes the names of a tenant and keeper of "Roten Parke" from a deed of 1536, and in a note he says:—

> This mention of Rotten Park deserves some notice. It is well-known that a family of the name of Rotton has long dwelt in Birmingham. Not meeting with the name in the older records of the town, I infer that this old memorial park gave the family its name, not the family its name to the park. But the family became freeholders of high respectability, many of them dwelling in Bordesley. Of this I have proofs among my private documents (one has been already cited under the year 1586); but the fact is very strikingly illustrated by the history of an old Bordesley charity, founded by Richard Kylcuppe, who, on 19th September, 1611, devised to Robert Shilton and John Foxe certain land at Sparkbrook, upon trusts which he was curiously but wisely careful to order, should be always cited on every change of trustees. The controllers of the trust were required to be, all of them, "*yeomen*, *freeholders*, and *inhabitants* of Bordesley." In 1612, out of the eight only

persons that fulfilled these conditions, four were "Ambrose Rotton, Richard Rotton, Thomas Rotton, and John Rotton." It is remarkable and very instructive, that this charity altogether escaped the notice of the roving Charity Commissioners who were sent out some years ago to find out the nakedness of the land. But its course has, nevertheless, been remarkably regular. Somewhat familiar with this sort of subject, I confess to surprise at the completeness of the manner in which the donor's intentions have been observed. The proceeds of the charity are still annually distributed in accordance with those intentions.

Before closing this letter, it will not be out of place to call attention to the Charter of King Edward VI.'s School, and the light which it throws upon some old Birmingham names. This Charter is dated 1552, and the town is spelt Brymycham; and in the list of property possessed by the foundation we find mention of the Englyshe Market, which included property in Dale End, Meeting Street, High Street, and Union Street; Le Bulryne, Le Pynfolde, Well Street (now Digbeth), Park Street, and near Godde's-carte Lane. In the Englyshe Market were seven messuages or tenements, with two crofts of land. In New Strete, "a house or hall called the Town Hall, otherwise the Guilde Hall, and one garden to the same house or hall appertaining or adjoining and one messuage, two crofts of land, one barn, and one garden, with the appurtances." In Chappell Strete, now Bull Street, "all those lands and hereditaments called Foldes, &c.;" and in Dalende, "a barn and four messuages with the appurtances." In Molle Street, now Moor Street, "five messuages or tenements, and two crofts of land;" in Egebaston Strete, "one barn, two cottages, one garden, and five messuages;" in Le Pynfolde, the "croft of land;" and in Park Strete, near Godde's-carte Lane, "two barns and two gardens." In Le Foren, or the "Foreign," "all those lands, fields, meadows, and hereditaments, with the appurtances, called Long Croft, Bynges [the Crescent], Rotton Fields, Walmores, and Seyncte Mary Wood, &c." There were also the crofts in New Street, the Masshouse Croft, Kimberley's Croft in Moor Street, and Steelhouse Croft. Some of these names are to be found in Mr. Dovey's Terrier, and show how thoroughly Birmingham was a country town even at so late a period in its history.

Yours truly,

J. A. Langford.

June, 1869.

INDEX.

ALLEN, Edward, the case of, 267.
ALLIN'S, J., poetic advertisements, 138, 267.
AMELIA, Princess, death of the, 239.
AMIENS, Peace of, 112.
AMPHITHEATRE, the, 259.
ANCHOR tea gardens, 9.
AN elegant mansion, 194.
ARIS'S Birmingham Gazette, history of, 590, 591.
ARMITAGE, James, death of, 561.
ART, Work of, 117.
ARTIZANS, first public meetings of, 322, 327; and the commercial distress, 571.
ARTS, Birmingham Academy of, 363; Society of, 409; first announcement, 410; first meeting, 411; donations, 412; Society of, 494; first exhibition, 503; new building, 507; first conversazione, 509.
ASHTED, 3, 4.
ASHTED Chapel, 17, 70.
ASHWIN, subscription for his family, 19.
ASTON Park, robbery at, 140.
ASYLUM, the, 79.
ATTACK on the King, 59.
ATTWOOD, Thomas, 318.

BANKERS and five-guinea notes, 31.
BANK failure, 466, 584.
BARRACKS, first stone of, laid, 22.
BASKERVILLE, J., disinterment of, 356.
BASKERVILLE Place, Canal, 342.
BAPTIST Chapel, new, 236.
BEDFORD'S, Paul, first appearance in Birmingham, 397.
BELL, Dr., 360.
BENEFIT Concert, 130.
BENEVOLENT Society, 46.
BILLINGTON, Mrs., 252.
BIRKBECK'S, Dr., Lectures, 242.
BIRMINGHAM, effects of the riots, 1; plan of, 4; building in, 6; Heath enclosure, 10; population and houses, 12; barracks, 22; and Warwick Canal, 28; riot bill, 32; penny-post for, 35; Little Riot, 36; malicious report of fever in, 39; charity, 41, 45; Benevolent Society, 47; volunteers, 49; the distress in, 54;

BIRMINGHAM *(continued)*—
Workhouse, 57; Public Office, 78; Asylum, 79; Anacreontic Society, 87; General Provident Society, 93; bill for improvement of, 101; Botanic Garden, 111; the Peace of Amiens, 112; Bisset's poem on, 118; Theatre burnt, 125; Dispensary, 142; Nelson's visit to, 203; Asylum, 212; Union Fire Office, 215; Prince William of Gloucester, visit to, 215; proposed visit of the King, 217; population of, in 1801-11, 241; Library, 242; Morfit's poem on, 285; volunteers, 272; first statue in, 299; a free town, 309; gardens, 312; streets bill, 321; first Royal Mail, 321; artizans, 322; Proof House, 328; poor rate bill, 343; fair, 345; Academy of Arts, 363; Philosophical Society, 368; Romeo Coates in, 382; Deaf and Dumb Institution, 403; Society of Arts, 409; Political History of, 412; Drake's Picture of, 438; improvements in, 442; houses in, 441; Savings' Bank, 444; Workhouse, 445; Mr. Robinson's visit to, 454; Eye Hospital, 455; Journal, 462; Friendly Institution, 472; Botanical Society, 480; Banking Company, 480; Duke of Wellington's visit to, 487; Spectator, 497; Mechanics' Institution, 499; Independent, 503; Magazine, 504; School of Medicine, 505; Chantrey's visit to, 504; Spurzheim's visit to, 506; Map of, 506; Free Grammar School, 510, 588, 592; Law Society, 512; Town Hall, 550; Market Hall, 552; value of property in, 552; Fish Market, 553; cholora in, 556; Zoological Gardens, 565; Marshal Soult's visit to, 579; Town Mission, 581; Herald, 587; Educational Statistical Society, 595; British Association in, 597; Loyal and Constitutional Association, 625; Charter of Incorporation, 647.
BIRTHDAYS, Royal, 34. 42.
BISSET'S Birmingham, 118.
BLAKE'S Illustrations to Blair's Grave, 243.
BLICK, Francis, death of, 209.
BLUE Coat School, 65, 113, 502.

Boot and Shoe Makers, 227.
Bordesley Tavern, 7.
Botanical Garden, 111, 480, 488, 493, 561.
British Association, the, 576, 598.
Brougham, Mr., thanks to, 324, 333.
Buckle manufactory, 14, 16.
Bull-baiting, 134, 137, 138, 268, 612.
Bullock, Mr., 117.
Buttons at Court, 41.
Button trade, 61, 62, 89; white metal, 233, 584.
Burke, Master, 521.
Burn, Rev. E., and Dr. Priestley, 18.

Camden Hill Villa, 310.
Campanalogians, 124.
Canal tunnel, Worcester and Birmingham, 74.
Capital punishment, meeting on, 484.
Carles, Mr., 394.
Carr's Lane, New Meeting House, 351.
Cartwright, Major, statue of, 514.
Catalani, Madame, 262, 515.
Catholic Association, 458, 462.
Catholic Emancipation, 477.
Cause Célèbre, 186; impostor, 186; his arrest, 187; his identification, 188; his committal, 189; "The Duke of Ormond," 189; Duke or no Duke, 191; tried at Warwick, 191; tried at the Old Bailey, 192; hanged, 192.
Charity, School, new, 362.
Chartist riots, the, 634; meeting at Holloway Head, 635; the National Convention, 635; Bull-Ring meetings, 636; state of the town, 636; proclamation, 637; the London police, 638; resolutions of the Convention, 639; the riots, 640; Town Council Committee, 641; presentation to Mr. J. B. Hebbert, 642; election, 642; Lovett and Collins, 642; Mr. Dundas's report, 643.
Cheap cook shops, 72.
Cheltenham amateurs, the, 517.
Cholera, the, 494, 555.
Christ Church, 204; founding of, 218; consecration of, 325; dispute about, 351.
Church Extension, 349.
Church Rates, 490, 570.
Church's, Dr., steam carriage, 564.
Clay, Henry, 33.
Climbing Boys, 347.
Clocks and Watches, tax on, 76.
Cock-fighting, 135, 268, 402, 526.
Cockfounders, the Master, 457.
Collard, John, 117.
Collins, and his Entertainment, 123.
Combination Laws, 204, 402, 562.
Commercial Society, 326, 352, 358, 469, 483.
Cooke, Rev. J., death of, 563.
Copper and Brass Trades, 19.
Copper, high price of, 18, 86, 87; trade, 110, 207; duty on, 462.
Corbett, Joseph, 572.
Corn Market, 229; laws, 331, 467, 580.
Cottage of Content, the, 8.
Cricket, 611.
Criminal Code, meeting for reform in, 355.
Croft, Dr. G., on the baptism of dissenters' children in the Church, 222; death of, 247.

Davies, Dr. Birt, 568.
Deaf and Dumb Institution, 403; Mr. De Lys's lecture, 403; first meeting, 404; the committee, 404; address, 405; opening of the, 406; benefit at the Theatre, 407; Rev. C. Kennedy's address, 407; last report, 408.
Deritend, houses in, 5; bridge, 67, 75, 76, 80, 329, 438.
Deritend turnpike, removal of, 476.
Digbeth, houses in, 5.
Discussion, religious, 471, 488.
Dispensary, Birmingham, 142; annual meeting, 143; laying the stone, 143; the new building, 144; self-supporting, 475.
Distress in Birmingham, 53; letter from the Duke of Portland, 54; distress loan, 468; commercial, 573, 576.
Dobbs, Mr. and Mrs., 381; song, "I can't find Brummagem," 523; new entertainment, 525; death of Mr., 576.
Domestic servants, 348.
Drake's picture of Birmingham, 438.
Duddeston town, 444.
Dugdale's, Sir William, Life, Diary, &c., 503.
Duncan, Admiral, victory of, 77, 80.
Dutch Dwarf, the, 393.

Early closing, 465.
Early mail to London, 240.
Earthquake, 61, 333.
East India Company, protest against the monopoly of the, 318.
Edmonds, George, 318.
Educational Statistic Society, Birmingham, 595.
Eginton's painted window at Great Barr Chapel, 121; at Court, 371.
Elliston, R. W., and the Theatre Royal, 375; his addresses, 377, 394.

Employment for children, 65.
Everitt and Son, 371.
Eye Hospital, 455.

Factory Act, 331, 335, 338, 561.
Fair, postponement of the, 241.
Fever Hospital, 460, 474, 476.
Fire Insurance Company, the first, 215.
Fish, supply of, 19; market, 553.
Flanders, warm clothing for the army in, 38.
Flood, destructive, 582.
Forestalling, Ingrossing, and Regrating, 101.
Forgeries, Bank of England, 349.
Freehold Land Societies, 569.
Freeth, the Poet, 270; his poetry, 271; Birmingham ale tasters, 271; Weston's lines to, 272; Birmingham volunteers, 272; invitation to Vauxhall Gardens, 273; Birmingham buckles, 274; John Eckstein's Picture, 275; Birmingham tranquillity (1776), 276; his death, 277; portraits, 277.

Gas Light Company, 340, 351.
General Hospital, 234.
George III., anniversary of his accession, 235; of the 50th year of his reign, 239; death of, 353.
Gordon, Lord George, 37.
Gottwaltz, John, postmaster, 34.
Grimaldi, 392.
Guardian Act, new, 479.
Guillotine, la, 124.
Gutteridge's, Mr., lectures, 586.

Harborne Penny Club, 110.
Harlequin Mariner, or the Fairy Oak, 129.
Hats and Gloves, 23; hats, duty on, 233.
Heath-mill Lane, 195, 314.
Herald, Birmingham, the, 587.
Hollins, William, and the Bull-ring pump, 199.
Hollins, Thomas, drawing of High Street, 202.
Hollins, Peter, bust of E. Grainger, 498; exhibition of sculpture, 514.
Hospital collections, 91.
Household bread, 92.
Housekeeper wanted, 528.
House of recovery, 332.
Hutton, W., and his riot claims, 19; his life, 371.
Howe's, Lord, victory, 42.

Incendiary fires, 25.
Incorporation, the charter of, 648.
Independent, the Birmingham, 503.
Industry, schools of, 361.
Infant schools, 499, 500.
Ireland, distress in, 450, 491.
Iron, proposed tax on, 78, 222.

Jabet, Mr. R., 337, 371.
Jacques, the French giant, 517.
Jewellery trade, the, 584.
Jews' Synagogue, laying the foundation stone of the, 236.
Johnstone, Dr. John, death of, 568.
Jones, Richard, 383.
Journal, the Birmingham, 569.

Kean, Edmund, 380.
Kemble, John, 132.
Kennedy, Rev. Rann, on the coronation of George IV., 357; on the death of the Princess Charlotte, 372; on the character of George Canning, 505.
King, attempt on the life of the, 98; birthday of the, 100.
King Edward the Sixth's Free Grammar School, 510, 551, 553, 588, 592, 597.
Knott, Jonathan, death of, 329.
Knott, Thomas, death of, 581.

Lambert, Daniel, 260.
Lamentations of James, 401.
Lancaster, Joseph, on education, 243.
Lancasterian Free School, 361.
La Poupee Parlante, 517.
Lawley, Sir Robert, death of, 31.
Law Society, Birmingham, 512.
Leipsic, battle of, 328.
Lench's Trust, 459.
Lloyd, Charles, death of, 474, 580.
Lloyd, Sampson, death of, 227.
Lodge's historical portraits. 586.
Lombard House, 198.
Lowcells [Lozells] the, 4.
Luckcock, James, 371.
Lying-in Hospital, 327.
Lys, Dr. De, death of, 492.

Macauley, Miss, 384.
Macready, W. C., his first appearance, 263; his farewell, 521.
Mail, the first royal, 321.
Market Hall, new, 552.
Market, new beast, 315.
Masonic Festival, 241.
Matrimonial advertisements, 401, 527.
Matsell, Philip, execution of, 224.
Matthison, Arthur, 522.
Maxwell's daggers, Dr., 23.
M'Cready, Mr., 130, 373.
Meat, high price of, 86.

Mechanics' Institution, 501, 508, 596, 601.
Medical Pneumatic Institution, 44.
Medicine, school of, 505, 514, 587, 594.
Moat, the, 196.
Militia, warm clothes for the, 41.
Minor Theatre, 392.
Montgomery, James, 596.
Moore, Mr. Joseph, 319.
Morfitt, J., and his account of Birmingham, 278; harvest home, 280; gardens, 281; lodges, 281; morals of the people, 282; politics, 283; trades, 284; the British Tocsin, 284; poem on Birmingham, 285; his death, 286.
Mudie, Miss, 257.
Muntz, G. F., 318.
Mutiny in Birmingham, 48.

Nelson, Lord, visit of, 203; statue to, 299; Nelson's victory, 300; his death, 301; naval pillar, 302; the funeral, 303; suggestions for a memorial, 305; the statue, 306; Farror's Bequest, 308; Mr. Lines's Drawing, 308.
New button, 354.
Newspapers, new tax upon, 74.
News room, 244, 496.
New Street, improvements in, 439.
New trade, a, 556.
Nile, battle of the, 80.
Nott, Job, and his tracts, 116.

Odd entertainment, 133.
Old Meeting House School, 353.
O'Neil, Miss, 387.
One pound notes, 73.
Orders in Council and their effects, 318; revocation of, 324.
Orthopædic Hospital, 343.
Osler's, F., Anemometer, 590.
Owen's, Owen, decent Burial Society, 46.

Paine, Tom, burnt in effigy, 29.
Pandean Concert, 253.
Pantomime, speaking, 383.
Parkes's, Joseph, history of the Court of Chancery, 505.
Paris, Treaty of, 329.
Park Street, land and gardens, 8.
Patent laws, the, 557.
Patriotic fund, 220.
Pearson, Thomas Aris, death of, 115.
Pedestrianism, 402.
Pemberton, Charles Reece, 655.
Penny-post for Birmingham, 35.
Philosophical Society, Birmingham, 368.
Pitt, William, death of, 221.
Police bill, 29.
Political History, 412; Hampden Clubs, 412; first Newhall Hill meeting, 413; the Prince Regent fired at, 415; proposed address, 415; *Gazette* comments, 415; declaration, 418; resolutions, 418; meeting at Newhall Hill, 420; Proclamation against seditious assemblies, 423; the leaders indicted, 423; Scene at the Theatre, 424; James Luckcock's letter, 425; another meeting at Newhall Hill, 425; Constitutional Society, 427; apprehension of George Ragg, 428; the "Radicals" at Church, 428; Ragg's Handbill, 428; Government prosecutions, 429; action against George Edmonds, 430; the Grand Jury's resolution, 431; trial for conspiracy, 432; seditious libel prosecution, 434; loyal meeting, 435; the Birmingham prosecutions, 436; George Edmonds's advertisment, 529; dinner to Henry Hunt, 530; representation of Birmingham, 529; Birmingham election bill, 530; distressed state of the Country, 531; the Political Union, 532; objects of the Union, 534; duties of Members, 534; Town's Meeting, 535; the Union Medal, 537; Sir Francis Burdett, 537; the French revolution, 1830, 538; an Episode, 539; Anniversary of the Political Union, 541; Non-Union Reformers, 541; second reading of the Reform bill, 542; George Edmonds's services, 543; rejection of the Bill, 543; scene in the House of Commons, 545; great meeting in Birminham, 546; the bill rejected by the Lords, 546; Town's Meeting, 547; the Union and the Reform bill, 612; meeting at Newhall Hill, 613; "the gathering of the Unions," 614; state of the country, 615; resignation of Earl Grey, 616; "No taxes paid here," 617; declaration, 618; presentation of the freedom of the city to Thomas Attwood, 620; Earl Grey returned to office, 620; the Bill passed, 621; celebration dinner, 622; the election, 623; indictment against the Ministry, 623; public dinner, 624; Loyal and Constitutional Association, 625; general election, 625; Reformers' Registration Society, 627; reorganising the Political Union, 627; Protestant meeting, 628; constitutional anniversary, 625; Political Union, 629; Reform dinner, 630; Conservative reading room, 631; Constitutional Association meeting, 631; Reform Association, 632; general election, 632; election riots, 633.
Poor Children, education of, 360, 362.

Poor, condition of the, 212.
Population returns, 441.
Post Office, 331.
Pratchet, Richard, 197; death of, 465.
Priestley, Dr., death of, 208; centenary of, 557.
Princess Charlotte of Wales, marriage of, 337; death of, 345.
Printers in London, distressed, 468.
Private Theatricals, 252.
Proof House, laying the foundation stone of, 328.
Proud, Rev. J., his Address, 29.
Provident Society, 93, 472, 477.
Public Houses, 84.
Public Office, 78, 85; and Prison, new, 219, 225, 226.
Pudding Brook, accident in, 6; Garden by, 312.
Pump, the Bull-ring, 199.

Queen Caroline, her trial, 354; death of, 359.
Queen's Hospital, the, 585.

Railway, Birmingham and Manchester, opening of the, 574, 579.
Rated Houses, 340.
Rating of small Tenements, 341.
Reformation Society, new, 475, 479.
Reformation, Tercentenary of, 565.
Resurrectionists, the, 528.
Rioting, reasons for not, 52.
Riots of 1791, 19; assessment for, 22; and the engines of St. Martin's, 27; bill, 32; levy, 43; scarcity, 50; potato, 236; riots again, 320, 337; at the Theatre, 607.
Riot, the little, 36; Bread, 97, 103.
Roberts, John, death of, 21.
Robinson's, Mr., visit to Birmingham, 454.
Roman Catholic Cathedral, 551.
Roman Catholics and the Army and Navy, 225.
Romeo Coates in Birmingham, 382.
Roscius, the young, 254; Weston's lines on, 255; his father's letter, 256; Mr. Bisset on, 256; the infant, 519; the African, 523.
Ryan, Mr., 384.
Ryder, Bishop, 566.
Ryder's, Bishop, Church, 575; Consecration of, 580.

Salt, T. C., 318.
Sand Pits, gardens in, 310.
Savings Bank, 333, 444, 470.
Sawyers, 210.
Scarcity riots, 50; and the attempts to meet it, 107.
Scholefield, death of the rev. R., 207.
School, Lancasterian, 245, 248; evening, 370.
School of industry, female, 114.
Servant girlism, 401.
Shakespere Club, 581.
Shoe Trade, dispute in the, 21.
Siddons, Mrs., 260.
Sieur Sanches, 373.
Slavery, Abolition of, 451, 558, 560.
Small Arms, manufacture of, 324, 334.
Smithfield, new, 311.
Smith, Timothy, the death of, 563.
Snow Hill, Saracen's Head in, 313.
Society for the relief of poor aged women, 461.
Soho, the world of, 144; Mr. Smiles's description of, 145; Swinney's directory, 146; holiday at, 147; the new Foundry, 148; Bisset's survey, 150; illumination at, 150; men of genius at, 151; visitors to, 152; Copper coinage at, 153; death of Francis Eginton, 153; death of Matthew Bolton, 154; Mr. Bolton's Funeral, 154; death of James Watt, 155; death of William Murdock, 156.
Soult's, Marshal, visit to, 578.
Soup Shops, 93; collection for, 96.
Spear in an elephant's tooth, 136.
Spectator, Birmingham, 497.
Spiceal Street, garden in, 9.
Spooner, Richard, 318.
Spring Gardens, accident at, 7.
Spurzheim, visit of, 506.
St. David's Society, 456, 461.
Steam Canal Boat, 469.
Steam Carriage, 556.
St. George's Chapel, Edgbaston, 568, 579.
St. George's Church, 353; commemoration of, 448; Church and Parish, 449.
St. Mark's Chapel, 584.
St. Martin's Burial Ground, 484.
St. Martin's Church, 199, 205.
St. Matthew's Church, 583.
St. Peter's Church, 465, 471; burning of, 489.
St. Thomas's Church, consecration of, 482.
Sturge, Joseph, 569; and the Musical Festival, 481, 571.
Sunday School Jubilee, 515.
Sunday School, the Methodist, 243.
Sunday trading, 20, 71, 73, 83.
Swedenborgian Chapel, attempt to burn the, 29; Chapel, Paradise Street, 236.

Taylor, James, jun., Freehold Land Societies, 569.
Temperance Societies, 492, 554, 562, 578.

Tempest, dreadful, a, 240.
Theatre, destroyed by fire, 125; rebuilt, 127; redecorated, 259; made a patent house, 261; destroyed by fire again, 397; the new, 400.
Theatre, private, 123.
Theatrical Address, 519.
Theatrical Looker-on, 516.
Theatrical Publications, 497, 498.
Thorpe, Lieutenant, 237.
To arms! to arms, once more! 286; the Peace of Amiens, 286; thanksgiving, 287; war declared again, 288; the theatened invasion, 288; voluntary subscription, 289; the volunteer corps, 289; local officers, 291; address to the ladies, 292; first field day, 294; advice of the doctors, 295; heroic act, 296; anonymous letters, 297; flannel dresses, 297; state of the corps, 298; consecration and presentation of colours, 298; Edgbaston and Aston, 298.
Tower Street, 314.
Town Hall, the, 485, 486, 550, 552; strike at, 564.
Town, improvements in the, 198.
Trade trouble, a, 346, 463.
Trafalgar, battle of, 219.
Trance, a, 137.
Treason and Sedition, 161; Address to the King, 161; Association against Republicans and Levellers, 162; Association of Loyal True Blues, 165; Church and King Club, 165; Birmingham Association, 166; Address to the Hundred, 167; another meeting, 168; the Protestant Dissenters, 169; the Innkeepers, 170; Twenty Guineas Reward, 172; Messrs. Binns and Jones, 172; an explanation, 173; History of the Year, 175; protest against Ministers, 175; treasonable and seditious paper, 176.
Twyford, Robert, attempt to murder, 223.

Union Mills, the, 156; Mr. Bell's Letters, 156; flour and bread, 158; advantages of the mill, 160.

Vaughton's Hole, 314.
Victoria, Princess, visit to Birmingham, 486; birthday of, 571; accession to the throne, 573; coronation of, 577; marriage of, 583; shot at by Oxford, 585.
Volunteer Associations, 176; County meeting, 177; offer to raise regiments, 177; Loyal Birmingham Associated Cavalry, 179; Light Horse Volunteers, 179; voluntary contribution, 180; presentation of colours, 181.
Volunteers for the Navy, 49.

Walker's Lectures, 247.
Wallis, Mrs., 130.
Warneford's, Dr., donation, 594.
Warwick, execution at, 141.
Warwick Canal, 28.
Warwickshire, Graphic Illustrations of, 495.
Washwood Heath, execution at, 265.
Water mill in Park Street, 201.
Water Works Company, 228, 230, 239, 466.
Wax Work, Madame Tussaud's, 379, 517.
Weaver's Museum, 588, 587.
Wellington's, Duke of, victories in Spain, 324, 327; visit to Birmingham, 487.
William IV., death of, 573.
Wilson's, fearful accident at, 453.
Withering, Dr., 26.
Women's Market, 11.
Woodman, Opera of the, 129.
Workhouse, Birmingham, 445.
Woronzoff, Comte de, 132.
Wright, Daniel, Death of, 599.

THE END.

W. G. Moore & Co,, Gazette Buildings, High Street, Birmingham

...ped below.

*DA
Longford -
690
A century of
B6L26 Birmingham life.
1870
v.2
SEP 3 1994 Tholfsen, TR

*DA
690
B6L6
1870
v.2

UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY
D 000 452 811 3